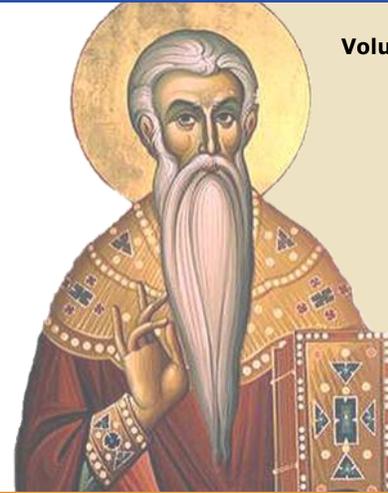


in Touch

Volume 34, Issue 3

March 2026



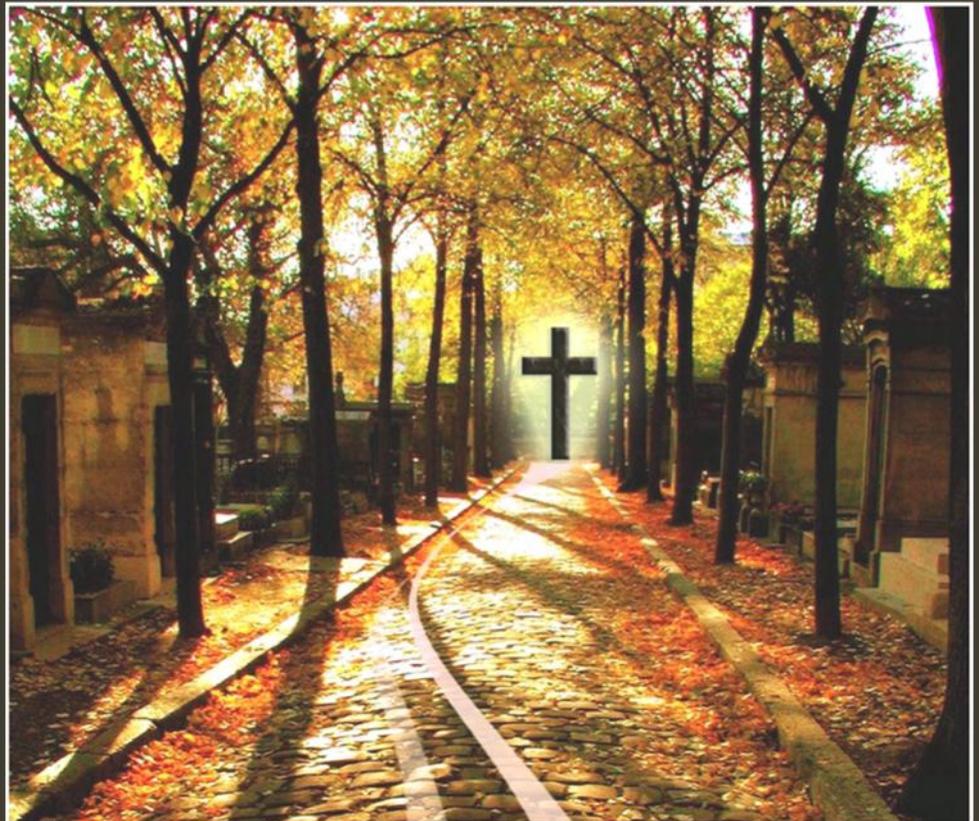
The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

The Lenten Journey

**Remediation
and Rebuilding • 2**

**A Taste
of Greece • 3**

**Philoptochos
Impact Report • 5**



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



Remediation and Rebuilding

After five weeks of holding Sunday Matins and Divine Liturgy outdoors due to the January flooding incident, the floors and walls have been completely dried, carpeting throughout the building has been removed, the Solea in front of the Icon Screen has been rebuilt, and, thankfully, we've been able to return indoors for services.

The offices and classrooms have been emptied and packed into storage so that new flooring can be installed. New drywall is being installed over areas that had to be removed, and then repainted. Progress is being made, and we look forward to its completion in the next several weeks.

As Great Lent continues this month, we ask everyone to exercise caution when entering the building for weekday and evening services. The Lenten service schedule is posted on our parish website (www.stharambos.org) under the Calendar tab.

I also encourage all to attend the Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vesper services which are hosted by



different Orthodox Churches each Sunday at 6 pm. The host parishes are also listed on our parish website calendar.

Also coming up at the beginning of March is the Lazarus Saturday/Palm Sunday weekend on April 4th and 5th. We welcome everyone's help making the Palm Crosses after liturgy on Lazarus Saturday.

Keep the Fast, continue to pray, and offer charitable works throughout the remainder of Great Lent.

Keep the Fast, continue to pray, and offer charitable works throughout the remainder of Great Lent. With the arrival of Holy Week, please make every effort to join with your Church Family to experience the awesome final week of our Lord's life on earth. The prayers and hymns are beautiful and moving.

May God grant the strength, discipline and compassion for the remainder of the spiritual journey of Great Lent.




**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

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

[Services live online](#)

Office

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

Parish Council

Evan Bachanos	Daniel Teska
Avery Brightwell	Vivian Teska
Angie Cholas	Basil Tripsas
Virginia Dent	Eleni Tucker
Stella Pagos	Solomon Woldesilassie
Catalina Raicioff	Linda Zakas

St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Cynthia Bekiaris, President

Empowering women and men through Purpose, Faith, Service, and Compassion for more than 90 years.

Part of our mission is to preserve and strengthen the Orthodox Christian Family through Philoptochos. We promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages, and customs.

Please see our 2025 Impact Report on pages 5-8.

Won't you consider joining us and learn more about our lenten traditions.

Membership Qualifications

1. Full Membership

Women of the Greek Orthodox Faith, at least 18 years of age, are eligible for full membership.

2. Associate Membership

An Associate Member enjoys all privileges of membership except the right to vote or hold office.

The following persons are eligible for associate membership:

- A non-Greek Orthodox woman married to a Greek Orthodox man.
- Greek Orthodox men.
- A non-Greek Orthodox man married to a Greek Orthodox woman.

Fellowship Hour

We would like to open our Fellowship Hour to all members of our St. Haralambos Church Family. Please bring what you can to share throughout Lent.

Christian Stewardship comes in many forms. We fulfill service, and spiritual commitments with each contributing a share of time, talents, and resources according to their abilities.



A Taste of Greece!

Unbelievable, but six years have passed since our parish family last hosted our Peoria Greek festival. The exciting news to share with family, friends and neighbors is that we are planning on bringing it back, October 23-25, 2026, and it will be better than ever!

While the flavor of the festival might be Greek, our festival is a community wide celebration, showcasing who we are as Orthodox Christians. In Greece, as well as in other predominantly Orthodox countries, most churches have a festival, typically in celebration of the Patron Saint of the community. St Haralambos is observed on February 10. Unfortunately, this year that timeline presented us with numerous challenges for our reset.

Moving to October gives us needed time to be thoughtful in our planning and think

outside of the box in re-imagining what our festival will look like. While we have some experience within our parish, we really are beginning with a clean slate.

Subcommittees are forming focusing on many different aspects including food and beverage, pastries, music and entertainment, children and family activities, cultural and religious experience, promotion and social media, infrastructure, parking and security, volunteer and vendor management.

Everyone has talents to offer and your enthusiasm is needed. To express your interest and offer your help, call the church office or reach out to Father Michael, Committee Chair Dennis Georgen, or any member of the Parish Council. OPA!!



Stewardship

One of our parish goals for 2026 is to have all parish families become Good Stewards of Saint Haralambos Church. This means carefully completing the 2026 Stewardship brochure, making sure your family information is correct, becoming involved in parish ministries, and making a financial pledge for the year.

When we recognize that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all gifts from God, there should be no hesitation in thanking God by using those



gifts to build up His Church and to glorify His name. 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 strengthening of the Church. When one is aware of their God-given blessings, then sharing them with others and through His Church is a very natural and joyful response.

If needed, [Stewardship brochures](#) are available at the Narthex candle stand.

2026 Stewardship Families

Abitt, Dimetra
 Abbott, Paula
 Anest, James
 Bachanos, Evangelos & Jewelene
 Basha, Genti & Elda
 Bastell Suad R.
 Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
 Brightwell, Avery & Brook
 Chambers, Michael
 Christian, Thalia
 Conklin, Tom & Maria
 Cornetta, Alexander
 Danielek, Chrissy
 Deinhard, Kimi
 Deming, Janet
 Dent, Virginia
 Evangelinos, Mr. and Mrs
 Farr, Jeff
 Finch, Marina

Ghattas, Edward & Nada
 Giannias, Elaine
 Hartsel, Barbara
 Horne, Kevin & Denise
 Huth, Cynthia
 Jolly, Judith L.
 Kinniburgh, Anna
 Kondiles, Anastasia
 Laios, Efthimios (Tim)
 Lazzelle, Estelle
 Levendi, Mary
 Mavridis, Christos
 Milonas, Nick & Jane
 Nathanson, Irene
 Pagos, Stella
 Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres.
 Kristen
 Raiciof, Catilina
 Russom, Bereket & Nardos
 Sambol, Patricia

Schepers, Duane & Nadia
 Selles, Argiroula & Brianna
 Servetas, Charlotte
 Singleton, Melanie
 Surman, Dina
 Tesfay, Ocbai & Genet
 Teska, Daniel & Vivian
 Thieke, James
 Trakas, Georgia
 Tripsas, Basil
 Tucker, Eleni
 Vardalos, Lindsay
 Woldeasilassie, Solomon
 Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
 Yannakopoulos, George & Helen
 Zakas, Speros & Linda
 Zaruba, Estelle

Name Days

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

St. Theodotos (2nd)	St. Panharios (19th)
St. Mark (5th)	St. Myron (20th)
St. Theophylaktos (8th)	St. Euthymios (22nd)
St. Symeon the New Theologian (12th)	St. Parthenios (24th)
St. Aristobulos (15th)	St. John of the Ladder (Climacos) (30th)

Birthdays



Dina Surman (1)
 Sophia Tsioutsopoulos (4)
 Christina Gardner (16)
 Malia Panousopoulos (19)
 Estelle Zaruba (19)
 Nick Milonas (23)

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.

EMPOWERING women.
IMPACTING lives.
BUILDING hope.
STRENGTHENING communities.



"I noted the beautiful, realistic saying: 'There is pain in this world, this life is not fair; there is pain, there is need out there, but there is also love, there is care, there is compassion.' And you know what? There is Philoptochos."

- His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

IMPACT REPORT 2025



The Greek Orthodox Ladies
PHILOPTOCHOS
SOCIETY

HOW PHILOPTOCHOS RESPONDS: 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



In 2025, Philoptochos raised **\$2,086,435** and allocated **\$1,876,193*** in funding to national and international organizations through our programs and ministry commitments. Among our major donations are the following:

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIAL SERVICES	\$175,160
HELLENIC COLLEGE HOLY CROSS	\$120,000
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE	\$120,000
MISSIONS: METROPOLIS OF SWEDEN	\$73,301
SAINT PHOTIOS SHRINE	\$60,707
DEIRDRE'S HOUSE FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF ABUSE	\$60,000
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	\$35,398
GOA GIRL DELEGATE PROGRAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS	\$30,000
UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND	\$30,000
SENIOR CITIZENS NURSING HOME AT IMVROS	\$25,000
ARCHDIOCESAN CAMPING MINISTRY	\$25,000
ST. MICHAEL'S HOME	\$22,000
THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES CENTER AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY	\$18,000
ECUMENICAL FEDERATION OF CONSTANTINOPOLITANS, ATHENS, GR	\$16,000
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL	\$15,000
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE BLIND IN GREECE	\$15,000

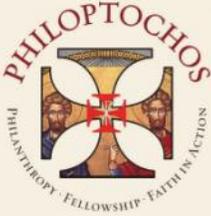
"I never thought that as a girl from Oklahoma I would go this far. This was one of the most fun, informative, and inspiring weeks of my life."

- Zoe

Participant, GOA Girl Delegate Program thanking Philoptochos for its support

The **GOA Girl Delegate Program** empowers young women by providing leadership development, civic engagement, and mentorship opportunities through participation in national and international forums, including representation at the United Nations. The program fosters confidence, advocacy skills, and a commitment to service, preparing participants to become thoughtful leaders who amplify the voices of women and girls within their communities and beyond.

*Funds are distributed through grant applications and request for proposals (RFP's). See www.philoptochos.org/grant-application-form/



AT HOME AND ABROAD,

Philoptochos **allocated \$219,242 in emergency relief** to communities affected by devastating fires in California and Greece. Funding supported wildfire recovery in Southern California, and fire relief at Axion Esti Monastery. We also provided assistance to aged Constantinopolitans in Athens, Greece, the Island of Imvros, and to the American Friends of the Blind in Greece - helping restore safety, stability, and dignity.

Social Services: Supporting Individuals, Families, and Communities in Need

The Department of Social Services is often called the “heart of National Philoptochos”, where compassion becomes action.

“Your generosity reflects the mission and spirit of the National Philoptochos, whose work brings comfort and light to families in their most difficult hours. Please know that your compassion has been a great source of strength to us, and it will never be forgotten.”

– Social Services Recipient



Children’s Medical Fund: Strengthening Pediatric Care, Access, and Inclusion

A total of **\$767,366 in grants** from the Children’s Medical Fund supported critical health, mental health, and accessibility initiatives for children with medical and developmental needs.

Funding expanded student grief counseling services; enhanced patient safety through a nurse call system at the Marklund Wasmond Center; launched a pilot behavioral health care model; supported inclusive dance and theater programs through mobility and sensory-friendly equipment; funded the purchase of the Sonosite LX Ultrasound System; provided technology for play-based learning and therapy for children with disabilities; and enabled accessible transportation through the purchase and wheelchair conversion of a 15-passenger van featuring the National Philoptochos logo in a medically underserved area.

Together, these investments advance pediatric care, expand access to all health services. **Philoptochos changes lives.**

This impact report reflects the unwavering commitment and generosity of our chapters, whose contributions make this work possible.



The Greek Orthodox Ladies

**PHILOPTOCHOS
SOCIETY**

IMPACT REPORT 2025

The National Philoptochos Department of Social Services assists Orthodox Christian individuals and families who are in the United States to address and resolve their human service and/or financial challenges as effectively as possible.

Scan the QR code below to LEARN more today.



 (212) 977-7770

 contact@philoptochos.org

 @philoptochos

 @philoptochos

 philoptochos.org

Headquarters:

126 East 37th Street
New York, NY 10016
Tel. (212) 977-7770
Fax (212) 977-7784

Empowering women
through Purpose,
Faith, Service, and
Compassion for more
than 90 years.

**WE ARE
PHILOPTOCHOS!**

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy First Sunday of Lent; Procession of the Icons 6:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lent Vespers (St. Katherin)	2	3 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service	4 5:00pm Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts	5 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	6 7:00pm Akathist Hymn Second Stanza	7
8 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Second Sunday of Lent; Saint Gregory Palamas 6:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lent Vespers (St. Ignatius)	9 9:00am Divine Liturgy 40 Martyrs of Sebastia	10 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service	11 9:00am Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts	12 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	13 7:00pm Akathist Hymn Third Stanza	14
15 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Third Sunday of Lent; Procession of the Holy Cross 6:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lent Vespers (St. Sava)	16	17 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service	18 5:00pm Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts	19 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	20 7:00pm Akathist Hymn Fourth Stanza	21
22 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fourth Sunday of Lent; Saint John Climacus 6:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lent Vespers (Sts. Peter and Paul)	23	24 7:00pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation of the Theotokos	25 9:00am Divine Liturgy Annunciation of the Theotokos	26 10:00am Lenten Bible Study	27 7:00pm Akathist Hymn Complete	28
29 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fifth Sunday of Lent; Saint Mary of Egypt 6:00pm Pan-Orthodox Lent Vespers (St. John the Baptist)	30	31 7:00pm Lenten Compline Service				