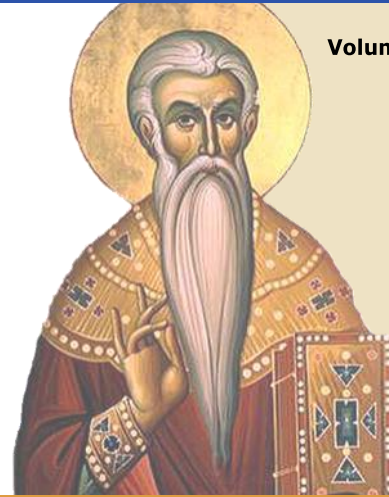


in Touch

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National Church Music Sunday

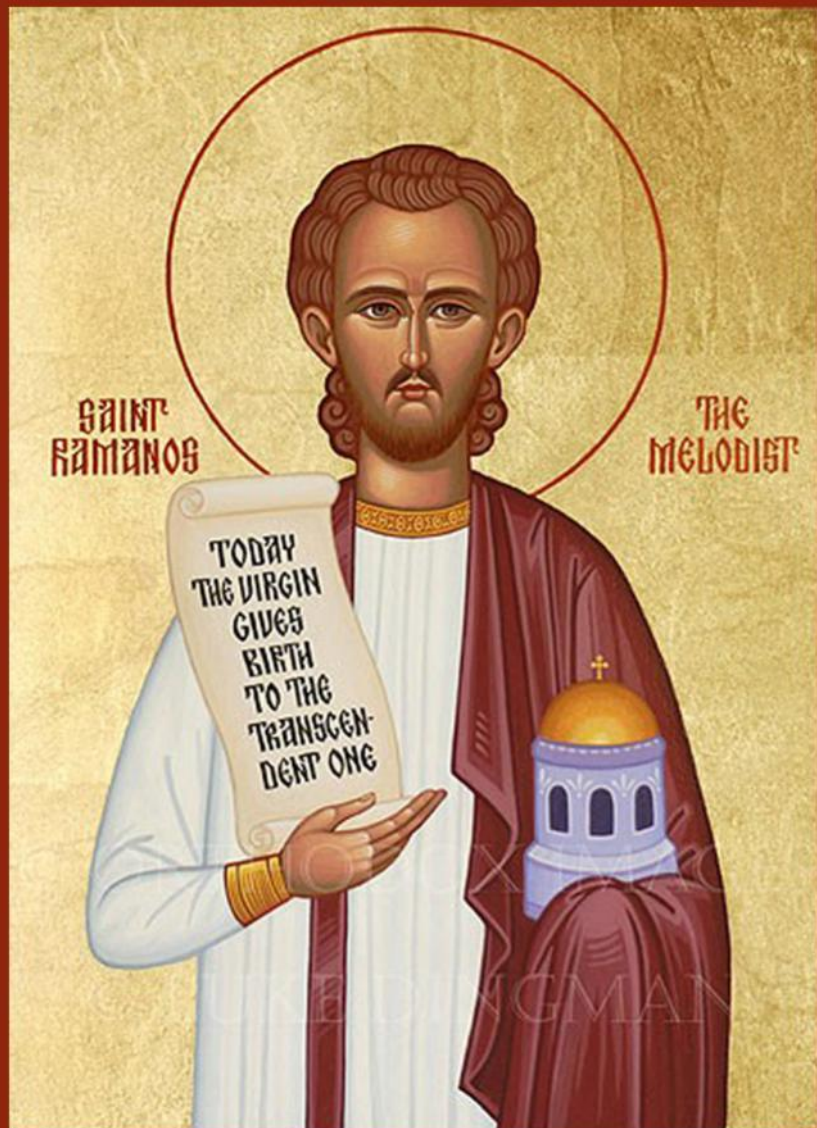
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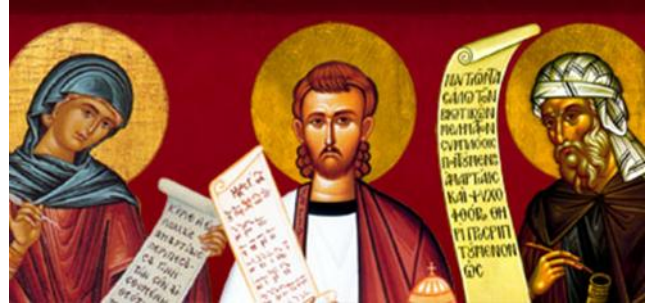
Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos

National Church Music Sunday

The hymnologists of the Orthodox Church are Christians of virtue and great faith, having been endowed with musical talent as well as the power of religious inspiration. Their creations enrich our worship services and help turn our souls towards God. Perhaps the greatest of all hymnologists is St. Romanos the Melodist. Many other hymnologists wrote ecclesiastical hymns, but none of them inspired the Christians as much as St. Romanos.

Romanos was a Syrian Christian who lived in the beginning of the 6th century. A convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served in the Church of Beirut. His talent was great. Unlike others, he wrote his hymns in simple language and produced a pleasant meter in the verse by the way he accented words. The hymns he composed appealed to the hearts of the people, and are still sung today.

Romanos has been called "Sweet Singer" (*Glykophonos*), "Melodist" (*Melodhos*), and "Righteous Chanter" (*Psaltis Dhikeosinis*). He wrote hundreds of hymns celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the living of a Christian life. One of his most famous compositions is the hymn celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, "Today the Virgin gives birth to One who is above all living things..." (*I Parthenos Simeron*). St. Romanos is also said to have composed the Akathist Hymn, a kontakion that we still chant during the Friday evening services of Great Lent.



Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing and accenting thousands of kontakia. He has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church. Others say he is the leader in the world of religious hymnology. Surely, he has made a profound contribution to divine worship and deserves to be recognized by all who sing and by all who listen to the hymnology of our services.

The first Sunday on or after the Feast of St. Romanos (October 1st) is designated by our Archdiocese as NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY. Each year on this Sunday, we pause to honor the gifts and contributions of our church musicians — clergy, choir directors, cantors, choir members, organists, and Church School music educators. We thank them for their devotion to our Church through their ministry of music.

Second Saturday Community Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Second Saturday event on September 12! We had close to 50 people in attendance. We started with Vespers, had a huge spread of food, and then listened to a presentation on Holy

Confession by Avery Brightwell. We hope to see you at our next event on Saturday, October 10 starting at 5 pm, which will include a presentation on Holy Chrismation. Please scan the QR code on page 7 to RSVP!





God Does Not Show Favoritism

"You ask Him!"

"No, you ask Him!"

"I'm not going to ask Him, you ask Him!"

"I know, let's get mom to ask Him!"

"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." (Matt.20:20-21)

The above paragraph from St. Matthew's gospel is copied verbatim, word for word. The dialogue in the first paragraph is, of course, just a presumption of what may have transpired between the disciples James and John prior to their mother's request. Not having the courage to approach Jesus directly, they seek out mom instead.

"But Jesus answered and said, 'You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They said to Him, "We are able." So He said to them, 'You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father.' (Matt. 20:22-23)

Although mom had the courage to ask for her sons, the answer couldn't have been what they were expecting to hear. "Well, thanks anyway, mom!" the two must've been thinking.

"And when the ten heard it, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your servant, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.' (Matt 20:24-28)

This scripture reading is a great reminder of just how human the disciples were, and, at the same time, how truly divine our Lord was.

It's good for us to know that God does not play favorites and sees every human being as equal; not identical, but equal. He is the most impartial judge imaginable. He cannot be bought (God has need of material possessions?) or swayed (He's heard it all before). Each of us are going to stand or fall on our own merits.

What is pleasing to God is to live a life that keep us on the path towards the Kingdom of Heaven. We can learn to love one another, we can practice patience, mercy, forgiveness and charity. And one more thing, taken from the above passage: we can learn to serve one another. This, our Lord teaches, is what really makes a person great in God's eyes.

(Continued on page 4)

*He is the most impartial
judge imaginable.*



**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](#)

Office

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Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

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

Parish Council

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

A Heartfelt Thank You

With grateful hearts, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to everyone who generously gave of their time, talents, and treasures to help restore, renovate, and beautify our church following the devastating flood our building suffered in January.

What began as a tragic and difficult moment became a beautiful demonstration of what can happen when a community comes together with a shared purpose. From those who rolled up their sleeves and worked, to those who offered their professional skills, donated materials, contributed financially, shared their ideas, or simply offered their prayers and encouragement—every contribution mattered.

Because of your generosity and commitment, our church building has been renewed in ways that go far beyond the physical improvements. You helped restore not only walls, rooms, and spaces, but also a sense of hope, pride, and possibility. Your kindness reminds us that our church is more than a building—it is a community of people who care for one another and are willing to come together

when it matters most.

We are deeply thankful for every person who played a part in this effort. No gift was too small, no hour of service went unnoticed, and no act of kindness was taken for granted.

And while we celebrate what has been accomplished, we look forward with excitement to the improvements still ahead. Together, we will continue working to enhance both our religious and secular spaces, creating a beautiful, welcoming, and functional place where our congregation and broader community can worship, gather, serve, learn, and grow.

Thank you for believing in our church, for standing beside us during a challenging time, and for helping turn an unfortunate circumstance into an opportunity for renewal.

May God bless each and every one of you for your generosity, your faith, and your willingness to be part of this community effort.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,
THANK YOU

Name Days

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

St. Ananias (1st)
SS. Cyprian and Justina (2nd)
St. James (9th)
St. Philip (11th)
St. Lazaros (17th)
St. Luke (18th)
St. Gerasimos (20th)
St. James (Iakovos) (23rd)
St. Sebastiane (24th)
St. Demetrios (26th)

Clergy Column

(Continued from page 3)

This means not focusing exclusively on our own needs and wants, but serving the needs of others. It doesn't mean to neglect ourselves, but not to become selfish and egotistical, thinking that we're better than others. In God's eyes, we are all equal, all human, all imperfect, all struggling, and all part of His creation.

True greatness, as Jesus taught, comes through serving; opening up our eyes, and responding to the needs of our neighbor. And who is our neighbor? (Answer: read the parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37.)

We do well to remember the many scripture references teaching that God shows no partiality among His people.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.” (Col. 3:23-25)

“But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” (Romans 2:10-11)



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Cynthia Bekiaris, President

Learning to pray can often feel more natural than learning how to help those in need. Yet our faith calls us to do both.

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to support the launch of a charitable organization in Northern Illinois that serves parents who have been left with few social, physical, or emotional resources. Founded in honor of Lydia, a distant relative who courageously raised four children on her own, Lydia's Table Illinois reflects her perseverance, deep faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and ultimate success despite tremendous challenges.

Already, Lydia's Table Illinois has assisted seven parents as they begin new chapters in their lives by providing fully furnished living rooms, bedrooms, and kitchens in their rental homes. Through practical support and Christian compassion, the organization is helping restore dignity, stability, and hope.

This raises an important question for us: What can we do locally as Orthodox Christians?

FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) exists to reveal Christ's love through service that restores dignity, transforms lives, and builds community. FOCUS Phoenix addresses homelessness through six key areas of support: structured shared housing,

employment development, financial literacy, resident accountability, community partnerships, and housing transition services.

FOCUS Phoenix currently partners with Holy Trinity Cathedral, St. Mary's Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul, and other organizations to make this ministry possible. Working together with our St. Haralambos parish ministries, Philoptochos will host a Second Saturday event during Lent to assemble personal care packages and hear from Executive Director Christopher Lopez about the needs and mission of this worthy organization.

There are many ways to become involved. Volunteers are welcome to help serve meals every Saturday at Mountain View Park, located at 9901 N. 7th Avenue in Phoenix, just north of Holy Trinity Cathedral. Whether through volunteering, donating needed items, or supporting the ministry financially, each of us can play a role in serving our neighbors.

As Orthodox Christians, our prayers and our actions go hand in hand. By caring for those who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and isolation, we put Christ's commandment to love our neighbor into practice and become instruments of His mercy in our community.

Please consider joining us in Philoptochos as we continue to make a difference.

Our 2026 Schedule is as follows:

Memorial Wheat Koliva and Church Bread Prosforon Class to be schedule in October and/or November

<u>Sun. 10/11/26</u>	<u>12:00 pm</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
<u>Sun. 11/8/26</u>	<u>12:00 pm</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
<u>Sun. 12/13/26</u>	<u>12:00 pm</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
<u>Fri. 12/18/26</u>	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>Christmas Baking - Tsourekia</u>
<u>Sat. 12/19/26</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>Christmas Baking</u>
<u>Sun. 12/20/26</u>	<u>After Liturgy</u>	<u>Christmas Bake Sale</u>
<u>Sun. 12/27/26</u>	<u>During Liturgy</u>	<u>Memorial Dove Service</u>
<u>Sat. 1/9/27</u>	<u>9:00 am</u>	<u>Vasilopita Baking</u>
<u>Sun. 1/10/27</u>	<u>After Liturgy</u>	<u>Vasilopita Silent Auction</u>

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.



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.

When we recognize that everything we have: health, wealth, time and talents, are all gifts from God, there should be no

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

2026 Stewardship Families

Abbott, Paula
Abitt, Dimetra
Alexander, Ruth
Anest, James & Vaso
Asfaha, Mogos & Almaz
Bachanos, Evangelos & Jewelene
Baliotis, Eleni
Basha, Genti & Elda
Bastell Rudenio & Suad
Baxter, Jean
Bekiaris, Harry & Cynthia
Brightwell, Avery & Brook
Cahlammer-Hallick, Michael & Athanasia
Cailean, Marius & Christina
Chambers, Michael
Christian, Thalia
Conklin, Tom & Maria
Cornetta, Alexander
Danielek, Chryss
Deinhard, Kimi
Deming, Janet
Dent, Virginia
Evangelinos, Paraskevas & Elpida

Farr, Jeff & Judy
Finch, Dennis & Marina
Foondle, Jeff and Rebecca
Georgen, Dennis & Victoria
Ghattas, Edward and Nada
Giannias, Elaine
Govis, William
Hartsel, Barbara
Herrmann, Scott & Athanasia
Hooper, Sophia
Horne, Kevin & Denise
Huth, Cynthia
Jolly, Judith L.
Karabetsos, Angela
Kinniburgh, Anna
Kondiles, Stellos & Anastasia
Laios, Efthimios (Tim)
Lazzelle, Estelle
Levendi, Mary
Maragos, Gerald & Lori
Mavridis, Christos
Milonas, Nick & Jane
Moore, Michael & Lauren
Nathanson, Irene
Pagos, Stella

Pallad, Fr. Michael & Pres. Kristen
Pappas, Irene
Raiciof, Catilina
Russom, Bereket & Nardos
Sambol, Patricia
Schepers, Duane & Nadia
Selles, Argiroula & Brianna
Servetas, Charlotte
Singleton, Melanie
Surman, Dina
Swagerty, Keith & Janet
Tsfay, Ocbai & Genet
Teska, Daniel & Vivian
Thieke, James & Lucy
Trakas, Georgia
Tripsas, Basil & Ann
Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
Woldesilassie, Solomon & Lydia
Wysmierski, Ray & Mary
Yannakopoulos, George & Helen
Zakas, Speros & Linda
Zaruba, Estelle

Birthdays



Tom Conklin (7)
Virginia Dent (11)
Henry Lafayette (11)
Athena Papamatheakis (11)
Dutch Rosenberg (13)
Dimetra Abbitt (15)
Sophia Bolas (15)
Lindsay Vardalos (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. HARALAMBOS

SECOND SATURDAY

Community Nights

VESPERS | POTLUCK | KIDS ACTIVITY | ADULT CATECHISM

WHERE WORSHIP MEETS COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 10
5:00 – 7:30 PM



RSVP to help us
get a headcount
to plan for food.

✦ OPEN TO ALL

✦ JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 3	2	3
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy National Church Music Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10 5:00pm Second Saturday Community Night
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	12	13 7:00pm Bible Study	14 10:00am Bible Study	15 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 4	16	17
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	19	20 7:00pm Bible Study	21 10:00am Bible Study	22 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 5	23	24
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	26 9:00am Divine Liturgy Saint Demetrius	27 7:00pm Bible Study	28 9:00am Divine Liturgy Holy Protection of the Theotokos 10:00am Bible Study	29 6:00pm A Journey to Fullness, Session 6	30	31