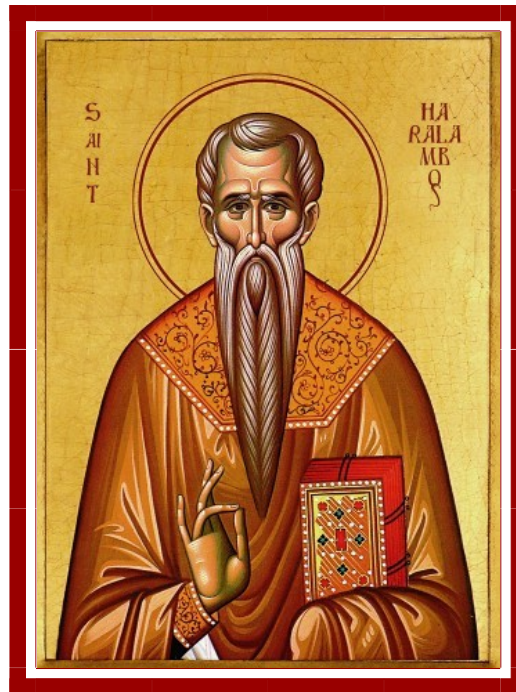




ST. HARALAMBOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CANTON, OHIO

*St. Haralambos
The Wonder Worker*



February 10

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

AKINONIA
KOINONIA

2025 PARISH ADMINISTRATORS

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

PHONE: 330-454-7278 **FAX:** 330-454-0099

EMAIL: Haralambos251@stharalambos.com

WEBSITE: www.stharalambos.com

CLERGY

REV. PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS V. GAMVAS, DMIN, PHD, IERATIKOS, PROISTAMENOS

REV. DEACON DR. KYRIACOS J. SHIEPIS, D.C.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Officers will be appointed in January

MEMBERS:

CAROL CAPOCCI	JASON COLON
STEVE DIAMANT	MICHAEL FAKELIS
CHRIS GAITANOS	DAVID HALLAMAN
ATHAN KAPALKO	JIM KELLAMIS
JOHN KELLAMIS	SHELLY LOUKAS
MICHAEL MORGAN	PETER PAPADOPULOS
MIKE PAXOS	STEPHEN PIROVOLOS
ALLISON SARRIS	ANGELA VAGOTIS

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: LAURI COY

CHURCH STAFF

CHOIR DIRECTOR:	DR. ALEX CHRIST
SUBDEACON:	BILL POULOS, JR.
SEXTON:	DEAN DARRAH
PROTOPSALTI:	PETROS GAITANOS
CHANTORS:	JOHN C. KELLAMIS NATALIA KELLAMIS

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL:	STEPHANIE MACHAMER
GREEK SCHOOL:	ELENI PAXOS
PHILOPTOCHOS:	TINA WEY
SILVER LINERS:	KATHY DIERINGER
MEN'S CLUB	CHRISTOPHER VALLOS
BOOKSTORE:	HELEN MEDER CYNTHIA LOUKAS CAROLYN HILL
GOYA:	NIKI STROHMENGER
JR. GOYA:	MARCIA BOURNELIS & LINDA NATALE
JOY:	STEPHANIE SAKEL
YAL:	NATALIA KELLAMIS
HELLENIC DANCERS:	ELENI PAXOS
FUNERAL MAKARIA:	TINA BOLON
MEMORIAL COFFEE HOUR:	CHURCH OFFICE
AHEPA:	JOHN KARIPIDES
AGIA MARKELLA:	ELENI PAXOS
KNOSSOS:	MARIA BOURLAS
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE:	JOANNA VOLAS
MAIDS OF ATHENA:	GIA SOTIROPOULOS



JANUARY & FEBRUARY LITURGICAL CALENDAR

JANUARY

JANUARY 1	WEDNESDAY	ST. BASIL THE GREAT 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 3	FRIDAY	ROYAL HOURS 9:00 a.m.
JANUARY 5	SUNDAY	EVE OF THE THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - followed by the Divine Liturgy - Great Agiasmos
JANUARY 6	MONDAY	HOLY THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy - Great Agiasmos
JANUARY 7	TUESDAY	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 12	SUNDAY	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 17	FRIDAY	ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 19	SUNDAY	12th SUNDAY OF LUKE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 26	SUNDAY	15th SUNDAY OF LUKE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 30	THURSDAY	SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS - ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2	SUNDAY	PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD TO THE TEMPLE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
FEBRUARY 9	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE - TRIODION BEGINS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy SAINT HARALAMBOS GREAT VESPERS 6:00 p.m. - Great Vespers
FEBRUARY 10	MONDAY	SAINT HARALAMBOS FEASTDAY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
FEBRUARY 16	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy. ST. HARALAMBOS NAMEDAY BANQUET to follow.
FEBRUARY 22	SATURDAY	1ST SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
FEBRUARY 23	SUNDAY	JUDGEMENT / MEATFARE SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

JANUARY 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 a.m. †St. Basil The Great 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	2 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	3 9:00 a.m. †Royal Hours Hellenic Dancers' Dance & Epiphany Greek Night Celebration	4
5 9:00 a.m. †Eve of the Epiphany †Vasilopita Sunday Girls BB 3:30 p.m. Boys BB	6 9:00 a.m. †Holy Theophany	7 9:00 a.m. †St. John The Baptist 5:15 p.m. Greek School	8 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	9 Outside Event 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	10 Fish Fry	11
12 9:00 a.m. †Sunday After Theophany JOY Operation Classroom Girls BB 3:30 p.m. Boys BB	13	14 5:15 p.m. Greek School	15 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	16 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	17 9:00 a.m. †St. Anthony Outside Event GOYA BB Tournament	18 GOYA BB Tournament
19 9:00 a.m. †12th Sunday of Luke GOYA Mtg.	20	21 Silver Liners @ HolyTrinity 3:30 p.m. Fr. Nick's Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Greek School 7:00 p.m. Greekfest Committee Mtg.	22 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	23 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Dance Meeting 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. †15th Sunday of Luke Girls BB 3:30 p.m. Boys BB	27	28 5:15 p.m. Greek School	29 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	30 9:00 a.m. †Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	31 GOYA BB Tournament @ St. Haralambos	



FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 GOYA BB Tournament@ St. Haralambos
2 9:00 a.m. †Presentation Of Our Lord GOYA BB Tourn @ St. Haralambos	3 5:30 p.m. Philop. Bd Mtg.	4 5:15 p.m. Greek School	5 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	6 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	7 4:00 p.m. Fish Fry	8
9 9:00 a.m. †Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee GOYA Meeting Girls BB 3:30 p.m. Boys BB 6:00 p.m. †Great Vespers St. Haralambos	10 9:00 a.m. †Feast Day of St. Haralambos Philoptochos Nameday Luncheon	11 5:15 p.m. Greek School	12 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Boys BB	13 Outside Event 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	14 GOYA BB Tournament	15 GOYA BB Tournament
16 9:00 a.m. †Sunday of the Prodigal Son St. Haralambos Celebration	17	18 3:30 p.m. Fr. Nick's Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Greek School 7:00 p.m. Greekfest Committee Mtg.	19	20 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	21 Outside Event GOYA BB Tournament	22 9:00 a.m. †1st Saturday of Souls GOYA BB Tournament
23 9:00 a.m. †Judgement Sunday-Meatfare JOY & Jr. GOYA Sock Hop Dance	24	25 5:15 p.m. Greek School	26 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	27 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Dance Meeting 7:30 p.m. Girls BB	28	<i>For the latest updates, please refer to your current Sunday Bulletin</i>



Father Nick's New Year's Letter 2025



†Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

Dear Saint Haralambos Parishioners: Families and Friends,

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Greetings in the Lord! What a year 2024 has been! All of us had our ups and downs. And there are several lessons we can learn from 2024.

Trials have come to all of us. They seem to be custom designed for each of us. Every trial has a lifecycle. The ultimate purpose of trial is to get us to turn to Christ. God is faithful. He always has and He always will be. He will never forsake His people.

Our sincerest appreciation to Mike Paxos, President of the Parish Council for his dedicated leadership. And to all of the Church's Ministry Groups: Rev. Dr. Deacon Kerik J. Shiepis, Subdeacon Billy Poulos, Sexton Dean Darrah, the Altar servers, the Parish Council, Tina Wey, President and Philoptochos, Kathy Dieringer and the Silver Liners, Christopher Vallos and the Men's Club, Stephanie Machamer, Director and the Sunday School, Eleni Paxos, Greek School Director and staff, Niki Strohmenger and GOYA, Marcia Bournelis and Linda Natale, Jr. GOYA, Stephanie Sakel and JOY, Natalia Kellamis and YAL, Eleni Paxos and St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers, Petros Gaitanos, Protosalti and the Chanters and Dr. Alex Christ and the Sr. and Jr. Choirs, and to Lauri Coy, our Office Administrator.

As we look to the New Year, it is easy to become discouraged and negative. Let me urge us to trust God and to make it the best year ever! In fact, Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for one who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him.” Just when things seem to be hopeless, God does His miracles! He wants to do that in our lives, our families, our workplace, and even for our nation and for all the peoples in the world. He is already blessing us abundantly at Saint Haralambos! As we read this, let me remind us again – this is not about the buildings of a church. Our goal at Saint Haralambos is to “Make Christ visible in our lives.”

Let me urge us to do the following this New Year: Pray that God will guard us against the enemy. The enemy always has something up his sleeves. Resolve to know Christ better in 2025. Further resolve to lean upon Him and trust Him. Resolve to give your Stewardship of Time, Talents, and Treasure offerings to the Lord. He doesn't need it but the Church on Earth does! (Malachi 3:10) “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

I pray for all of us daily. And I look forward to travelling the Spiritual Journey with all of you in the New Year ahead! And may the Lord have mercy on us. Amen.

**In Christ's love,
+ Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas**

Ο Νέος Έτος Ευτυχισμένος και Ευλογημένος

Αγαπητώ μου Εκκλησιασμα:

Ο καινούργιος χρόνος που στέκει μπροστά μας βουνός ακόμη και ασχημάτιστος, δεν έχει από άποψη δομής τίποτα καινούργιο. Τίποτα ασυνήθιστο ή πρωτότυπο για να μας εκπλήξει. Χονδρικά αποτελείται κι αυτός από 365 μέρες, 12 μήνες και 52 εβδομάδες. Τόσο όμοιος στη δομή του με τον περασμένο, τόσο πιστή αντιγραφή του χθες που τελικά καταντάει αληθινά το «αύριο σαν αύριο να μην μοιάζει».

Κι όμως είναι ένας χρόνος λευκός, αχρησιμοποίητος, αξόδευτος. Είναι ένας χρόνος καινούργιος. Μοιάζει με ζυμάρι στα χέρια μας απ' το οποίο θα πλάσουμε κατά βούληση κουλούρια ή ψωμιά ή παξιμάδια.

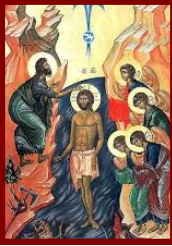
Όμως ο καινούργιος χρόνος που ανοίγεται μπροστά μας δεν είναι απλώς μια ανοιχτή δυνατότητα. Είναι και ένα κομμάτι ιστορία. Καί την ιστορία δεν την γράφει ποτέ ο άνθρωπος μόνος του. Συμπράττει αοράτως κι ο Θεός. Άλλοτε εμπνέοντας και πρωτοστατώντας στού ανθρώπου τα όνειρα και τις επιδιώξεις για άμεση επιτυχία των ευγενών του στόχων, κι άλλοτε υποχωρώντας, συγκαταβαίνοντας ή ανεχόμενος την ελεύθερη επιλογή από τον άνθρωπο του κακού ώστε να διδαχθεί ο άνθρωπος και κατά τρόπο έμμεσο, δηλαδή κι από τις αποτυχίες και τα δεινά του, ώστε να γίνει σοφώτερος, ταπεινότερος και σπλαχνικώτερος.

Σημασία λοιπόν δεν έχει μονάχα τι εμείς προγραμματίζουμε, ονειρευόμαστε και φιλοδοξούμε για τον καινούργιο χρόνο, αλλά και τι ο Θεός με την άπειρη σοφία Του μας επιφυλάσσει σιωπηλά μέσα στον χρόνο αυτό.

Η συνεργασία λοιπόν Θεού και ανθρώπου βρίσκεται πάντα στο βάθος κάθε ιστορικού γεγονότος. Μόνο στην αμαρτία ενεργεί μόνος του και ανεξάρτητος ο άνθρωπος και κάνοντας κακή χρήσι της θεοσύστατης ελευθερίας του. Όμως και εκεί δεν είμαστε ξεχασμένοι και μόνοι, αλλά μας παρακολουθεί η ανύστακτη στοργή Του με επιείκεια, έτοιμη να συγχωρήσει και να περισυλλέξει με την πρώτη κραυγή της μετανοίας μας κάθε μας ναυάγιο.

Μ' αυτή λοιπόν τη βεβαιότητα ότι ο Θεός δεν απουσιάζει ούτε δευτερόλεπτο από την Ιστορία, ας μπούμε άφοβα και στού καινούργιου χρόνου την άγνωστη περιπέτεια. Χρόνια πολλά με υγεία.

Εν Χριστώ Αγαπη,
Ο Αιδ. Νικολαος Β. Γαμβας



January 6

Theophany of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ

+ Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

The focus of this great feast is the Lord's baptism in the river Jordan by St. John the Forerunner. Another name for the feast is Theophany, for it is shown—it is revealed at Jesus Christ's baptism—that He is the Son of God. In-deed, the Holy Trinity is revealed at His baptism, for the Father says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," and the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in the form of a dove.

The meaning of the Feast of Christmas is fulfilled at Theophany, for now it is made clear that the One born in Bethlehem is truly God, come to restore our fallen nature and to renew the entire creation by uniting humanity with divinity in Himself. And even as the Son of God entered our world at His birth, He now enters the flowing water of a river in order to make it holy, in order to bring His blessing and fulfillment upon the world that He created. For the entire creation was subjected to futility because of the rebellion of our first parents. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans, "the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" for it also "will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

The good news of the gospel is that the Creator has become part of the creation in order to make it a new heaven and a new earth. We see at Theophany that nothing is intrinsically profane or cut off from the blessing and holiness of God. All things, physical and spiritual, visible and invisible, are called to participate in the divine glory that our Lord has brought to the world, to become part of the new heaven and earth of God's kingdom. Christ's baptism demonstrates that we, too, are saved along with the rest of the creation, for it is through the water that we share in His life. "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ." In baptism, we receive the garment of light that Adam and Eve lost when they distorted themselves and the entire creation with sin and death. The incarnate Son of God sanctified our flesh and blood at His birth, and at His baptism He sanctifies the water through which our calling as those created in the divine image and likeness is fulfilled.

When we bless water at the conclusion of liturgy today, we will participate in our Lord's healing of all reality, for holy water is a sign that every dimension of creation is to be sanctified, to become holy by the fulfillment of God's original purposes for it. Even though we pollute it and it is sometimes our enemy in storms and floods in the world as know it, God created water to sustain us and to bring life to the world. Christ has restored water to its intended purpose by making it holy through His baptism, which is a sign of His intention for every dimension of the universe that He spoke into existence.

When you have your Epiphany house blessing this year, I will sprinkle holy water in every room of your house, which is a sign of God's blessing upon even the small details of our daily lives. It is also a calling to sanctify every aspect of our life and to recognize that every dimension of who we are as human beings is to be baptized into Christ, dying to sin and rising with Him in holiness. True Christianity is not escape from the world or simply a matter of emotion or morality. No, we are called to become like God, to participate in His infinite holiness to the depths of our souls in every thought, word, and deed.

So this Theophany, we should become like the water that we will bless later in the service. That means responding to Jesus Christ's great blessing of the world such that we share in His life and become more fully who He created us to be in the first place in the image and likeness of God. No, none of this is magic. If we do not cooperate with our Lord's mercy by repentance and growth in holiness, holy water will do us no good. But if in humility and faith we thirst for the fulfillment of our daily lives in Christ, then drinking and being sprinkled with holy water will nourish us spiritually just like water revives a shriveled plant on a hot, dry day.

Theophany makes it possible for us to quench our thirst for holiness, for the divine life for which for which we were made. This is the joyful, blessed life of the Holy Trinity that Jesus Christ has brought to the world. This Epiphany, let us all stop dying of thirst for God and instead be filled to overflowing by the mercy, presence, and power of the Lord. And then, like well watered and nourished plants, we will flourish and bear good fruit for the Kingdom of God.



The Three Hierarchs

+Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

January 30

In our annual commemoration of the Feast of our three Holy Fathers, the Great Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, we affirm the power of their witness and guidance down through the centuries. As during the days of their pastoral ministry, their faith in God, their wisdom, and their holiness continue to lead us to Christ and deepen our understanding and experience of our relationship with Him.

Their stewardship of the grace and words of Christ are evident in the breadth and depth of their teaching and preaching. They were gifted and inspired expositors of the Holy Scriptures. They were willing messengers of God, seeking to communicate the truth in clarity and guide hearts and minds to the Source of grace and life. As they dedicated their minds and abilities to God, He consecrated their intellectual and oratorical abilities and their spiritual acumen for the sharing of the Gospel.

The Three Holy Hierarchs were able to be witnesses of God's grace because they knew firsthand the transformative power of grace. Saint Gregory the Theologian describes this power in his *Oration on Holy Baptism*: "Just as God gave existence to what did not exist, so too He gave new creation to what did exist, creation more divine and lofty than that which existed before, a seal for those only just entering life, and for those of more mature age a gift and a restoration to the image obliterated through wickedness."

In his commentary on Ephesians, Saint John Chrysostom also describes the impact of God's grace, *which He freely bestowed on us* (Ephesians 1:6). Comparing the transformation of the soul to "a leper, wasted by distemper and disease, age and poverty" and turning "him all at once into a graceful youth, surpassing all mankind in beauty...arraying him in purple and diadem and all the attire of royalty," he states: "It is thus that God has arrayed and adorned this soul of ours, and clothed it with beauty, and rendered it an object of His delight and love."

This wisdom and truth concerning divine grace combined with their experience of it throughout their lives, gave the Three Hierarchs insight into the potential of grace. In his theological treatise *On the Spirit*, Saint Basil affirms that the Spirit "sends forth grace sufficient and full for all mankind." In his commentary on Thessalonians, John Chrysostom explains how God gives *us eternal comfort and good hope through grace* (II Thessalonians 2:17). He states, "For if God has given so many things by grace, much more will come in the future." Chrysostom asks his hearers to see the potential of grace through the hope and comfort they have found in Christ.

Our celebration of this Feast and our annual commemoration of Greek Letters Day confronts these false ideologies with a vision of human life as it is intended to be transformed by the grace of God. The Three Hierarchs, Basil, Gregory, and John Chrysostom, combined their experience of God's grace with learning, language, and some of the highest forms of human expression. They offer a witness to us of how the presence of grace accentuates and transforms our abilities, creativity, and understanding of our existence by restoring our fellowship with God, destroying the power of sin, and giving us life, abundant and eternal.

As we commemorate these great champions of our faith, may we also celebrate the unique gift of the presence and grace of God. May His abundant grace be upon us and with us as we share His love through our faith, worship and service in His name. Amen.

This is the third Winter Feast of Light. The Nativity of Christ, Theophany and the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple are all about the revelation of God, the one true Light, to the world.

Simeon and Anna had nurtured the art of seeing over their long lives. The Holy Scriptures tells us that they had been preparing for this moment. Of Simeon St. Luke writes: "Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, *looking for the consolation of Israel*, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." He had been looking and because of his devout vigilance the Holy Spirit let him in on a secret. He would see the Lord's Christ before he died.



Of Anna Luke writes: "She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to *all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem*." She, too, had been looking. She had been vigilant and watchful like Simeon, preparing herself to see and receive the Messiah.

The ability to see from within and not only with our eyes does not come overnight. It must be nurtured and practiced as we see here, sometimes for a very long time. Eighty-four years for Anna. For us, how long? The practice of seeing is known as watchfulness, vigilance, or mindfulness. It is the fundamental practice of an authentic spiritual life. Without it the spiritual life is anemic. The soul grows weak. In Greek the word is *nepsis* and we read often of saints called "the neptic fathers" or the "unsleeping ones." These are saints who developed the art of mindfulness to the degree that even when they slept they were conscious and aware in prayer. It is not that they never went to bed, but that their awareness was unaffected by sleep.

Watchfulness, vigilance and mindfulness in prayer is the way we train ourselves to see what is before us without attachment or resistance, neither trying to hold on to what is good or push away what is not. It is to see every moment as a gift from God, rich in blessings, unrepeatable and absolutely necessary for our benefit, to know that everything is always changing and to accept that fact with open hearts. It is to see things as they really are, not as we believe them to be, or want them to be, but as they are. This is a practice that calls for great faith. Only those who trust completely in God can embrace life prayerfully, as it is and with thanksgiving.

In the anaphora we specifically ask that God will grant us the gift of vigilance. It is a divine virtue, a gift from the "God of Israel who neither slumbers nor sleeps." It is the oil that filled the lamps of the Five Wise Virgins who took seriously the call to be ready to greet the Bridegroom who comes in the middle of the night. "Blessed is the one whom He shall find awake!" It is what the Lord asked of his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not watch and wait with me one hour?"

We have forgotten the art of *nepsis*, of being awake, of being able to see clearly and respond wisely and therefore we have lost the vital connection with God that can only come through the conscious experience of union and communion. We must want to learn, the art of seeing from within.

Simeon and Anna show us what vigilance and watchfulness is. They watched and waited. How long their journey of stripping away the layers of skin from their spiritual eyes - skins of sin, desire, fear, self-centeredness and unconsciousness - took before they were prepared to see the infant Messiah is told by the years of their lives. It is significant that only two among the crowd in the Temple that day were able to see him. Only a few take the narrow path of vigilance it seems, but it is open to all of us.

It produces great fruit. It is a prerequisite to deep repentance because it brings self-knowledge. It brings peace to the heart and calm to the mind. People are being drawn to the practice in droves outside the Church because we have failed to practice it ourselves. If the Church will not teach it, people will look for it elsewhere. The Holy Spirit will always find a way to reach those who hunger and thirst for deeper things.

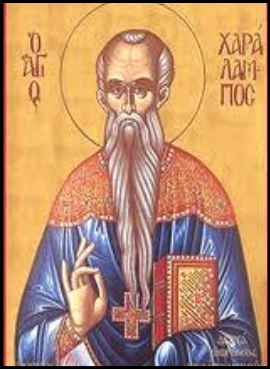
Simeon and Anna show us what can happen when the virtue of watchfulness is practiced consistently and patiently. Sooner or later when God wills (for it is always a gift, never automatic) and we are able at last to see, the revelation that Christ and his kingdom are present here and now will dawn in our hearts as dramatically and powerfully as the Second Coming. Amen.

February 10

Hieromartyr Haralambos, Our Patron Saint

The Saintly Man They Could Not Kill

+Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas



On February 10th we honor one of the most beloved Saints of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church. His name is Haralambos. In English, the translation for the name Haralambos used by most Orthodox Christians is "Harry". Haralambos lived in the 2nd century in a small town called Magnesia in Asia Minor. He became a Priest at a very early age and served his community with great zeal.

What has prompted the Orthodox Christians throughout the world to display such love and affection for Saint Haralambos? Why has he been so very close to the hearts of all of us for over 1700 years? Perhaps it is because of the fact that no other Priest in the history of Christianity suffered so much in one lifetime for his religious convictions.

In the city of Magnesia, the governor of the province, Loukianos, inflicted great pain upon Saint Haralambos because he refused to worship the idols of the Empire. The saintly Priest was first tied to a post in the public square and ridiculed by the pagans. Soldiers of the governor slashed the body of Saint Haralambos with heavy cutting irons. Saint Haralambos in spite of the terrible agony refused to deny Christ and accept their pagan gods.

After being tortured, Haralambos was dragged by his beard through the streets of Magnesia by soldiers on horseback. Many additional forms of torture were used to force Haralambos to give up his faith, yet he would not. During the ensuing months, Saint Haralambos miraculously survived all forms of torture. Eventually the people called him "the man they cannot kill". People spoke of many miracles attributed to Saint Haralambos during his imprisonment.

Thousands came to the jail to seek his blessing. Hundreds of afflicted souls came to be healed of their sicknesses. Haralambos became known also as the miracle-worker. He caused the lame to walk and the blind to see. Some thought he was the Resurrected Christ who had returned to earth. Saint Haralambos proclaimed to all that he was not the Messiah but he was only the instrument of the Lord's Divine Grace.

The Roman Emperor, Servius, was enraged by the actions of Haralambos and ordered the Saint to be brought to the capital of the Empire that was then located in the ancient city of Antioch (192 A.D.) In the city of Antioch, Haralambos was led about the city with a horse bridle in his mouth. This was done to ridicule both him and the Christian faith, which he continued to uphold.

The soldiers of the Emperor nailed Haralambos to a cross with over 100 large spikes that pierced the skin of the pious Saint. Other forms of torture were administered, and yet Haralambos did not relent or die. In his great anger, the Emperor ordered Haralambos beheaded!

As the two executioners raised their swords to kill the Saint, suddenly a voice was heard from heaven saying, "Well done My faithful servant, enter into the kingdom of Heaven." At that very moment, Saint Haralambos passed away without a single blow being struck. The executioners were dumbfounded. They knelt before the body of the Saint and asked God for forgiveness.

The Emperor became even more enraged, and ordered the two would-be executioners of Haralambos beheaded. Their names were Porphirios and Baptos, whose feast is celebrated also on February 10th. Thus the beloved Saint Haralambos truly had become "the man they couldn't kill," for he was taken by God Himself into the Kingdom of Heaven.



ASK FATHER NICK...

Question: Does the Orthodox Church say that: Melchizedek is A Prefiguration of Christ? Billy

Answer: The second Sunday preceding Christmas is known as Sunday of the Forefathers. These are ancestors of Christ who lived both prior and under the Mosaic Law. In the Theotokion of the Vespers on Saturday evening preceding this Sunday we hear the names of the Forefathers. Among the several names, there is one that is unique, Melchizedek.

Melchizedek is mentioned only twice in the Old Testament, in Genesis 14:18-20: Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands." Then Abram gave him a tithe of all. From these few verses we see a lot of imagery.

As Melchizedek was without earthly genealogy, so is Christ by virtue of His virgin birth. Christ is without paternal genealogy, having only maternal genealogy from the Theotokos. Since Jesus is God Incarnate, His priesthood is able to transform humanity. The priesthood of Christ is perfect since His sacrifice on the Cross was offered once and for all.

Likewise, the Old Testament does not cite when Melchizedek was born or died; thus, having no genealogy. For this reason, he typifies the eternal priesthood of Christ. Also, Salem is synonymous with Jerusalem (Psalm 76:2) and so Melchizedek is a descendant of David.

The Magi journeyed from afar to behold the Infant Christ and so we have journeyed through this period of Advent to receive the same Infant Christ who is Lord and Savior, the eternal priest according to the order of Melchizedek. He is the New Adam who is coming to redeem all mankind beginning from the First Adam. As we hear at every Orthros service, let us now triumphantly exclaim: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us, Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Question: Why are icons placed under precious covers? Carol Capocci

Answer: The tradition of adorning icons with precious plating stems from the times of Byzantium and Ancient Rus, where such covers, made of fabrics and metals, were signs of deep veneration. An icon plating is always a sign of thanksgiving. In church there are often chains with rings, earrings and other jewelry hanging near icons. People bring these items as a sign of their gratitude for the help granted to them through their prayers. These offerings are melted and used to make icon plating. The tradition of using gold, silver, pearls and precious stones to decorate churches has deep roots and is associated with people's desire to give the best of their possessions to God. Cases are known when merchants and boyars spent fortunes making offerings to churches.





ASK FATHER NICK...

Question: What is an Archon

Answer: The Sunday School Class: An Archon is an appointed honoree by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

It is by the grace of God that the Archon has been able to offer his good works and deeds of faith. Further, it is the sworn oath of the Archon to defend and promote the Orthodox Christian faith and tradition. His special concern and interest is to serve as a bulwark to protect and promote the Sacred See of St. Andrew the Apostle and its mission. He is also concerned with the human race's inalienable rights wherever and whenever they are violated – and the well-being and general welfare of the Christian Church.

This honor extended by the Ecumenical Patriarchate carries with it grave responsibilities, deep commitments, and sincere dedication. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that this honor of obligation be bestowed upon individuals of proven Orthodox Christian character, who conform faithfully to the teachings of Christ and the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, and encyclicals of the Church.

Those selected to serve as Archons have demonstrated a commitment greater than average toward the stewardship of time, talent and treasure for the betterment of the Church, Parish, Diocese/Metropolis, Archdiocese and the community. An Archon must truly be deserving of the proclamation: AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS!

Question: Who is our local Archon?

Answer: Sunday School: H. Steven Poulos, Archon

Question: What color was Jesus' robe? Carol Capocci

Answer: Matthew 27:28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.

Mark 15:17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

Mark 15:20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

John 19:2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe.

John 19:5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe,

Pilate said to them, Here is the man!

Matthew states the robe is "scarlet," and Mark and John say it was "purple." This suggests that the robe may have been a shade of either of these or something between the two. The robe probably was a military cloak, and the color, which represented royalty, was intended to mock Jesus' claim of being the King of the Jews.



The Greatest Gift Given to Mankind *JESUS CHRIST!*

By the grace of God, we have reached the New Year 2025. It has been said that time flies when you are having fun. We must all be having a great time because everyone has been telling me that they cannot believe how fast 2024 went by. Time is one constant that makes all people equal, we all are blessed with 24 hours in one day. What makes everyone different is how we choose to spend the time that is gifted to us. Logic would tell us that if we want to spend eternity in Heaven in the company of the Blessed Trinity and all the angels and saints, that we would spend much of our time that we are gifted with searching for Jesus Christ and fulfilling His specific plan for each one of us as individuals, but yet as members of His Body (the Church).

Every New Year many people from varied walks of life make New Year's resolutions, trying to better themselves in the upcoming year. Trying to do away with the negative aspects of their lives, as well as trying to incorporate positive actions and behaviors that become habits to better themselves. Unfortunately, most resolutions do not make it past the middle of February, studies have shown.

We as Orthodox Christians should be striving to become closer with Jesus Christ through His Words/teachings (Holy Scripture), His Liturgical Life in the Orthodox Church (Living the Liturgical Life of the Church/Receiving His Sacraments) & letting the light of Christ shine through us to everyone that we come into contact with via our work, social life & our corporate prayer life our Church family. By doing this, everyone will know that we are "*Christians*," we will not have to tell them so.

The question arises, how do we really know what the Lord truly expects and wants from us specifically as individuals? Everything that we purchase comes with some type of owners/instruction manual. What is the instruction manual for our life? The answer is simple. THE HOLY BIBLE! Everything that we need to know as to how to conduct **EVERY ASPECT** of our lives, (business, personal, social, marital etc.) is specifically outlined in great detail in the pages of Holy Scripture. Our responsibility is to search for it as hidden treasure, so that we can become true disciples of Christ fulfilling His plan for us individually and spreading His love and teaching (by our example) to everyone that we encounter in our lives.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Matt. 13:45. In order for us to receive this great treasure we must sell (renounce our former selves and lifestyles) everything, that is we must surrender all things in order to receive Christ.

We must understand that Jesus saw from the beginning His Church, the "*pearl of great price*" His Bride! He came down from Heaven, emptying Himself of all His heavenly glory, taking upon Himself the form of flesh, becoming like us in every aspect of our humanity (except for sinning) and becoming obedient unto a most cruel death. He suffered for us so that He could crush the final enemy, death itself. "Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom). Being the firstborn to arise from the dead for our eternal salvation. **WOW!!** If that is not the most powerful expression of God's love for us, I really do not know what else there is.

He became poor for our sakes and shed His blood for us, so that He could redeem us from eternal banishment and receive us into His heavenly kingdom as adopted Sons of God.

What the Lord wants us to know are in the pages of the Holy Bible. We must be eager to search the pages and apply the information to our lives. Everything in those pages is there for a reason for each of us as individuals specifically. We must search for them with diligence and great desire to learn, and in doing so, the Lord will reveal to us His precious knowledge and how to apply it in our lives for His glory.

Myself, along with Diakonisa Melissa, Kerissa, Costandinos, & Xenia wish everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas & a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year.

We hope that each family will take advantage of this traditional and important blessing for 2025.

Thank you.

SATURDAY OF SOULS



St. Haralambos Church Altar Boy Schedule

Thank you to all of our Altar Boys
for your dedication to our Lord!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Please be ready to start at 9:45 a.m.

TEAM A: Jan 12
Feb 9

TEAM B: Jan 19
Feb 16

TEAM C: Jan 26
Feb 23

TEAM D: Jan 5
Feb 2

TEAM A

John (Kaden) Higgins
Yianni Sotiropoulos
Aristides Kapalko
George Tzouloufis

TEAM B

Fotis Vonortas
Zachary Volas
Stamatios Paxos

TEAM C

Yanni Loukas
Andrew Rocco
Leonidas Paxos
Braden Michael Johnson

TEAM D

Luke Morgan
Yianni Fakelis
Ianni Colón
Dino Shiepis

Simple Church Etiquette

There are several parts of the service during which no one should be moving about.

Wherever a person happens to be at these moments, he or she should stop and stand reverently, until the proper time to proceed.

These parts of the service are:

- ◆ The Procession of the Priest and Altar Boys with the Gospel;
- ◆ The reading of the Gospel;
- ◆ The Cherubic Hymn and the Great Procession of the Priest and Altar Boys with the Holy Gifts;
- ◆ The recitation of the Nicene Creed (in which the entire congregation should participate);
- ◆ The prayers of offering "Take, eat..." and the prayers of the consecration of the Holy Gifts;
- ◆ The Sermon;
- ◆ Any special services (memorial services, processions, prayers);

One basic rule to follow is that, whenever the Priest is facing the people or outside of the altar, either with the censer or giving the blessing, everyone should stand wherever they are.

Please remember that the Parish Council members and the ushering staff are required to keep order during services, and all should follow their instructions at all times.



MISSED PARISHIONERS

MEADOW WIND HEALTH CARE CENTER

300 23rd St. NE, Room 225
Massillon, Ohio 44646
STACEY PAPPAKOSTAS

THE CANTON REGENCY

4515 22nd Street NW,
Canton, Ohio 44708
PAULA MACRIS
IRENE GIANAKIS

THE INN AT WHITEWOOD VILLAGE

3146 Whitewood St. N.W.,
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-933-4467
STEVE BASIAKOS

THE INN AT BELDEN VILLAGE

.3927 38th Street NW
Canton, Ohio 44718
330-493-0096
DIANE FORADAS

THE WINDSOR

1454 East Maple St. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-499-8300
JACK USNER

ROSELANE SKILLED NURSING HOME

5424 High Mill Ave. NW
Massillon, Ohio 44646
MIKE NICHOLS

BETHANY

626 34th Street NW
Canton, Ohio 44709
LISA (COTOPOLIS) FERENCZ



COMMUNITY NEWS



*Congratulations to all of these families!
May God bestow many blessings of good health,
much happiness, and many years to all of you!*



*Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers
are with all of these families
for the loss of their loved ones.
May their loving memories be eternal!*

BIRTHS

Lucas William Machamer was born December 7, 2024 to parents, Matthew and Mallory Machamer. Proud grandparents are John & Stephanie Machamer.

BAPTISMS

AMELIA ANN KANTZOS
was baptized on November 9, 2024.
She is the daughter of Markos & Grace Kantzos.
Her Godmother is Anastasia Vanortas

WEDDINGS

Michael Spicer and Paula Papadopoulos were married on November 30, 2024. Their Koumbara was Stephanie Machamer.



As I recouped from my knee replacement surgery I truly felt the love of my church community. Thank you Fr. Nick for your prayers and texts.

Thank you also to my Philoptochos sisters for the beautiful gifts and cards. Silver Liners for their thoughtful card and prayers and on behalf of the Parish Council, Carol C.'s kind words and sentiments.

I appreciated all the cards and phone calls that I received. I am so very blessed to be a member of St. Haralambos and wish my entire church family good health and prosperity in the New Year.

With Christian love,
Helen Apostolides

DEATHS

Mary Sue Spilios
November 19, 2024

Vondaleen Thomas
December 15, 2024

UPCOMING MEMORIALS:

17yr memorial: January 12, 2025
Rosalie Forinash

SAVE THE DATE



Canton Greek Fish Fry

January 10, 2025 – Drive Thru Only
February 7, 2025 – Drive Thru Only
March 7, 2025 – Dine In & Drive Thru
April 4, 2025 – Dine in & Drive Thru

Interested in volunteering?
Contact Peter Volas [216-312-4255]



2025 Canton Greek Fest Meeting Dates

Join the Planning Committee for the
2025 Canton Greek Fest

Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, January 21, 2025
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Tuesday, May 6, 2025
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

*All Meetings begin at 7pm
in the Youth Room

Call Mike Fakelis (330-327-5317)
or Mike Paxos (330-327-9180)

Christmas Poinsettias

*Thank you to everyone who donated the beautiful poinsettia plants for Christmas!
May God bless all of you and your families with good health and prosperity for the New Year!
May your departed loved one's memory be eternal.*



Flora Anderson

In memory of John Anderson and deceased loved ones

Voula Kandis

In memory of Sakes Kandis and loved ones

The Kouris Family

For the health of the family

Jerry & Bess McGonnell

For the health of our family

George & Dina Nikolaou

In memory of loved ones and for the health of family

Sophia Politis

In memory of Christos Politis and loved ones

Penny Ralles

*In memory of Grandparents, Parents, loved ones and
for the health of family & friends*

The Skendelas Family

For the health of our family

Mary Stavrakis

In memory of loved ones and for the health of family

John & GiGi Tsikles

For the health of our family



ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In Loving Memory of Our Dear Parishioners

MARY MANOS
February 6, 2024

CATHERINE SOPHIA USNER
March 31, 2024

ELPINICKIE (VAITSIS)
SIMITACOLOS
April 26, 2024

PETER FOSTINES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

GEORGE VAGOTIS
February 22, 2024

THOMAS A. CAZANTZES
April 11, 2024

PAUL L. DEMOS
May 6, 2024

MARY SUE SPILIOS
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

DARLENE
PANAGOPOULOS
February 25, 2024

STEVEN A. ARMATAS
April 23, 2024

IRENE CHAGAROS
May 23, 2024

VONDALEEN THOMAS
DECEMBER 15, 2024

ELENI ESBER
February 26, 2024

DIONISOULA "DENISE"
ARMATAS
April 30, 2024

DAN D. TRIFELOS
July 20, 2024

ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY BANQUET

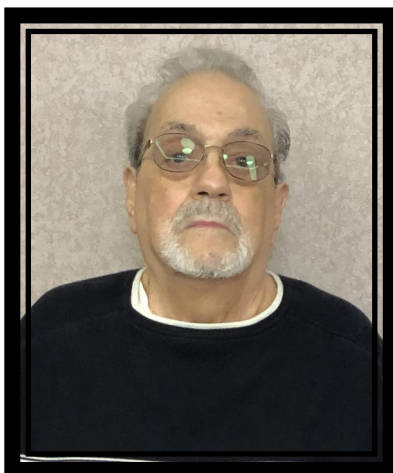
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Immediately following church services in the Alex D. Krassas Center

PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING OUR MAN OF THE YEAR

**The Men's Club proudly
presents:**

**THE 2024
MAN OF THE YEAR
ANTHONY KOUTRAS**



**St. Haralambos
Faithful Service Award
Recipients
will also be presented
awards, recipient names
will be announced soon!**

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society proudly presents the
2025 Women of Distinction*



Bonnie Eustathios



Cynthia Loukas



Stephanie Machamer



Joanne Nicholas



Rita Trikkas

Silver Liners ' Luncheons

Robin Roseberry, Singer



October 15th Luncheon



November 9th Speaker, Aristea Izouloufis

*Keeping Families Close
Ronald McDonald House*

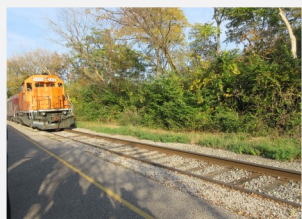


Silver Liners ' Adventures

Classic Rail, Classic Cars, Classic Dining



Cuyahoga Valley Rail



Canton Classic Car Museum & Bender's Tavern



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

TINA WEY, PRESIDENT

January/February 2025 EDITION



Still looking for volunteers in our community to sponsor a coffee hour

Please consider hosting a coffee hour. We are looking to our community to participate in this fun fellowship gathering after church on Sundays. Just keep it simple and grab your family and friends to bring a snack. We will supply the paper products and someone will help you with making the coffee. We just need a simple set up and clean up. We are also inviting any of our fellow church organizations to participate. There is a sign up poster in the lobby and you can also contact the church office. If you have any questions on set up, contact Stephanie Boka at 330-495-8798.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart

Vasilopita Sunday

Sunday, January 5th Thank you to our very own St. Haralambos bakers for giving of their time to once again bake our breads for this year.

Name Day Banquet and Women of Distinction

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Congratulations to our recipients

Bonnie Eustathios

Cynthia Loukas

Stephanie Machamer

Joanne Nicholas

Rita Trikkas

THANK YOU!

- To those who donated to the Giving Tree for Community Christmas
- To those who donated to Raise the Barr/Operation Classroom
- To those who helped to beautifully decorate the church for Christmas
- To those who planned the Christmas party
- To those who baked the Vasilopita
- To those who baked for the Goya basketball tournament
- To those who helped with coffee hour

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND GENEROSITY

This past year our chapter has given \$14,840 to charity!!

Meetings and Dues

Please join our meetings the first Monday of the month. Board Meetings begin at 5:30 and general meeting at 6:00 unless noted otherwise. Dues are \$28 for 2024/2025 are now being collected and can be given to Helen Apostalides or Fran Armatas. Enter through the Agape Courtyard.

SAVE THE DATES FOR

MOTHERS DAY DINNER

Monday, May 5, 2025

WINE, DINE and DANCE

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Lots more info to follow.

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Vasilopita After Liturgy

Monday, February 3, 2025

Board Meeting only

Monday, March 3, 2025

Board 5:30

General 6:45 (after church)

Monday, April 7, 2025

Board Meeting 5:30

General Meeting 6:45 (after church)

Monday, May 5, 2025

– Mother's Day Dinner

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOT

JAN/FEB 2025

A NOTE FROM

Stephanie Machamer, Director

So many wonderful things are happening in Sunday School. On November 24th, we celebrated our first Archon Sunday. This is a Global Initiative for all Sunday School Classes. Each classroom had a special lesson on the History of Archon's and the importance of why we have them. Thank you to Archon Steve Poulos for being our guest speaker in the Junior High/High School Classes. His presentation was awesome and very informative.

December was full of love and joy. St. Nicholas Sunday is always a wonderful outreach when the children bring gift cards and place them at the icon of St. Nicholas. These gift cards were distributed to needy children in the Stark County area. THANK YOU EVERYONE for participating.

Sunday School also sponsored Coffee Hour with Santa & Mrs. Claus. This is full of fun & fellowship for our entire community. Thank you to Mike & Paula Spicer for being Santa & Mrs. Claus. You two were AWESOME.

We continue to collect kid friendly items for our "Raise the Barr" feeding the children outreach. We feed 80 children the first weekend of each month. This will continue for the entire school year. Martha's Cupboard is always accepting these items or monetary donations are always welcome so we can purchase the items needed to feed the kids. Your generosity has been over the top. THANK YOU!!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR – 2025!!! May your New Year be full of Peace, Love & Joy!!



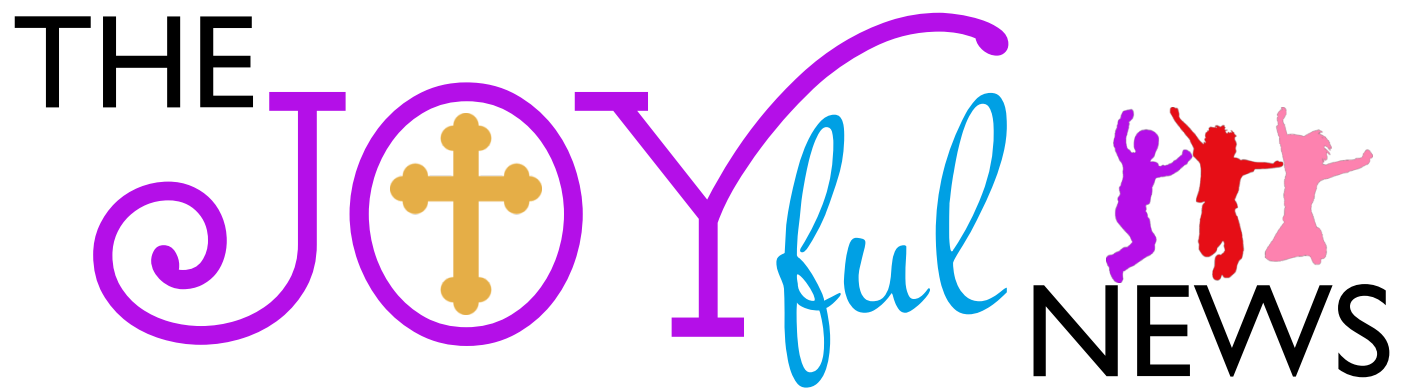
A visit from Archon Steve Poulos

Frist Archon Sunday

November 24, 2024

**Happy
New Year!**

THE JOYful NEWS



Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Project KARE outreach this Christmas season. JOY made 50 stocking bags, and donated extra stocking stuffers, candy and many bigger toys and gifts for children in need in Stark County. Thank you for your generosity!

Our group also had a nice visit at the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank in November. We participated in a Wrap-n-Pack project with Jr. GOYA, where we bundled 2,450 diapers! **St. Haralambos also donated 1,431 diapers to this effort from the diaper drive!** Thank you for helping many babies in need in our area.

January: Our JOY kids are embracing Operation Classroom for our January project. JOY is thrilled to be making pocket packs for classrooms at Barr Elementary. We're also donating reward prizes to help make learning even more fun!

February: We're rolling back to the 1950s for a Sock Hop dance with a mission! JOY & Jr. GOYA are teaming up to make toiletry kits for the Refuge of Hope homeless shelter in Canton. Our guest speaker, Savvas Bournelis, will speak with us as we head into the Lenten period about keeping Christ centered in all we do. [The Refuge of Hope urgently needs these essential items:](#) pajamas, shower shoes, feminine hygiene products, new socks and new underwear for men, women & children. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP, please leave items in our donation bin by the gym from **Feb 1-23**. [All JOY & Jr. GOYA members are asked to please bring at least one essential item to donate at the dance.](#) Thank you!

SAVE THE DATES

January 12:
Operation Classroom
project in the youth
room **RSVP ASAP**

February 23
Sock Hop Dance
with JOY & Jr. GOYA
Essentials Drive for
Refuge of Hope in Canton
Welcoming Savvas Bournelis
to speak with the kids
This event is in the Gym.
[Don't forget to wear some
cool socks to dance in!](#)
RSVP by Feb. 9

March 9
JOY Coffee Hour
JOY members are needed
to help clean tables
RSVP by March 1

March 30
JOY Meeting
We'll be making Easter
baskets for our missed
parishioners

**A special "Thank You" to Philoptochos for donating
to the Diaper Drive & Refuge of Hope projects!
Thank you so much for your generosity!**

Please contact Stephanie Sakel with any
questions or to RSVP: 330.949.8085

JOY'S Crafting Day!

Thank you to all of our JOY kids, former JOY graduates and other volunteers for helping during our crafting day! Everyone did a wonderful job getting ready for our Christmas Shoppe fundraiser!







Great
Teamwork!



JOY & Jr. GOYA joined together one evening to volunteer at the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank!



We donated **1,431** diapers from the St. Haralambos Diaper Drive!
Thank you for your donations!
A special "Thank You" to Philoptochos for also donating to this project!





We wrapped 2,450 diapers, which equaled 98 packs of diapers for 98 families in need. The diapers we wrapped are shown on the 2 long tables underlined here!

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers and their time to help this great organization!
www.heartofohiodiaperbank.org



JOY Helps Project KARE of Stark Co.

Our JOY elves were able to fill 50 stocking bags, and provide additional small stocking items to Project KARE for local children in need. We also donated candy, many toys and larger gift items thanks to all of your generous donations! Thank you all for helping with this Christmas outreach!



Just some of the toys and gift items were able to donate.

**Not all of our donations are pictured here*



We filled nearly 2 large rolling bins full of gifts and stocking bags for Stark County children

JOY'S Christmas Shoppe!

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped at our fundraiser!



JOY'S Christmas Party Fun!



Sophia DeAngelis volunteered to read our Christmas prayer, and she did a wonderful job! Thank you, Sophia!



1-2-3 Christmas Tree!

Two teams raced for 3 minutes to decorate
one teammate into a Christmas Tree!
Our two "trees" looked so festive!



**The
cling wrap
game was
a ball of
fun!**



**The kids
unwrapped
the ball to find
prizes as fast
as they could
before their
time was up!**



All JOY & Jr. GOYA Members Are Invited to a

Sock Hop!

February 23

in the gym after church

Come for Lunch, Learning,
Dancing & Helping the Homeless!

Welcoming Savvas Bournelis to speak with the kids!

The St. Haralambos

Diner Menu

Grilled Cheese

French Fries



Fruit



Root Beer Floats



Don't forget to wear cool socks
to dance in! RSVP by Feb. 9 to
your youth group advisor



REFUGE of HOPE
MINISTRIES
Meals • Shelter • Hope

We'll be making toiletry
kits for adults & children
at the Refuge of Hope
Shelter in Canton

We're also collecting needed essentials for the shelter.
All JOY & Jr. GOYA members are asked to please donate
one item listed below and bring it to the Sock Hop.

Items Needed for Men, Women & Children:

New socks, New underwear, shower shoes & pajamas

Also needed: feminine hygiene products

ANYONE CAN HELP: Additional donations are also
accepted at the donation box by the gym, Feb. 1 - Feb. 23.

GOYA Newsletter

To support our Metropolis Tournament our amazing parents with the leadership of Gus Fakelis prepared an amazing successful grab and go Gyro fundraiser!



During the month of November we collected 60 pairs of PJ's for children who are entering foster care. This was done in collaboration with Mrs. Victor's first grade class at the North Canton Primary School. We thank our St. Haralambos community for your donations.

We will be attending 2 tournaments and hosting our own on January 31 - February 2, 2025. Our first tournament will be Annunciation York in Pennsylvania on January 17-19th. Our last tournament will be Holy Cross in Pennsylvania which is a senior recognition weekend on February 21-23rd. We want to present to our Metropolis churches attending a weekend of fellowship and safe athletics competition. Help us to make this an unforgettable and memorable weekend. Thank you for always supporting our youth!



St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers

Happy New Year!

2024 PERFORMANCES

Epiphany Greek Night
St. Haralambos-Canton, OH

GREEKFEST-St. Haralambos
Canton, OH

GREECE TRIP 2024
Athens, Ionian Islands & Mainland Greece

St. John Greek Festival
Boardman, OH

Berea Oktoberfest
Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, OH

AHEPA HUD House
Canton, OH

We would like to thank all the dancer families and friends for participating in the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

We were able to provide 25 very FULL baskets to 25 VERY Appreciative families.

Thank you to Father Nick & the St. Haralambos Community for your continued support in 2024.

We look forward to the new year!

Eleni Paxos, Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January

Jan 2, 2025 ~ Special Practice All Groups

Beginners: 4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

Intermediate: 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Seniors: 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Jan. 3, 2025~Greek Night Epiphany Dance
40th Year Anniversary Celebration
(see flyer for details)

Jan 23, 2025~Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm
ALL groups

February

Feb 27, 2025~Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm
ALL groups

Practices:

January 9, 16, 23 & 30

February 6, 13, 20 & 27

Beginners: 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Intermediate: 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm

Training Seniors: 5:45 pm - 7:15 pm

Seniors: 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

NOTE Dancers and parents will be notified via text if we have to cancel practice due to weather.*

St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers
40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY DANCE
& EPIPHANY GREEK NIGHT CELEBRATION!

3 *Friday*
JANUARY, 2025

Featuring :

- **DJ PUFF**
- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY
ST. HARALAMBOS HELLENIC DANCERS**

7:30 PM - Midnight

\$20/person

\$15/registered dancer or under 12 years of age

Mezethes (Appetizers) & Desserts included

Cash Bar



St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

Krassas Event Center





St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Choir

~ Rehearsal Schedule: 6:00 PM

~Sunday Liturgy: 9:45 a.m.

January:

5th, Sunday
29th, Wednesday

Vasilopita Sunday
Rehearsal

February:

2nd, Sunday

12th, Wednesday
16th, Sunday
26th, Wednesday

Hosting Diocese GOYA Tournament
*Please make every effort to attend 9:40 a.m.
Nameday Rehearsal with Holy Trinity
Hierarchical Nameday Divine Liturgy
Rehearsal

March:

9th, Sunday
26th, Wednesday

Orthodox Sunday 9:40 am
Rehearsal

April:

2nd, Wednesday
9th, Wednesday
13th, Sunday
15th, Tuesday
18th, Friday
19th, Saturday/Sunday

Holy Week Rehearsal
Holy Week Rehearsal
Palm Sunday
Holy Tuesday (Kassiane)
Holy Good Friday
Pascha Resurrection

May:

17th, Sunday

Final Choir Sunday

June:

8th, Sunday

Pentecost at Holy Trinity TBA



“JOIN THE CHOIR”

OUR AMAZING CHOIR HAS BEEN GROWING...WE are ALWAYS
welcoming new members young and old to join our church choir.

If you have a love for music and song, we encourage you to attend
one of our scheduled rehearsals or just show up on any given Sunday!

Psalm 96:1-3. “Singing draws us nearer to God”

For information contact: Dr. Alex Christ, Music Director @ 330-284-9606

JANUARY

1 Steve Fronimopoulos Stacey Pappakostas Dino Tsenekos	17 Ron A. Darrah
2 Casey Likouris Melissa Panopoulos	18 Olga Tsenekos
4 Mary Stavarakis	21 Christina Zakham Georgia Zenallis
5 Jonathan Graf Paula Papadopoulos William Skendelas	22 Jim Dieringer Mary Griveas Karen Kotanides George Manuselis
6 Alexandra Foradis	23 Roseann Eustathios Pete Kazakis
7 Thaddeus Fakelis	24 Isabella DeAngelis Michael Kakoules
8 Peter S. Bourlas Charrie Regopoulos	25 Tony Koutras Kelly Wood
9 Louis Calandros James Lambos Georgia Paxos	26 Bessie Vlahos
11 Anna Darrah	28 Elena Kandis Cynthia Koskovich Basilina McGonnell Alexia Paxos
12 Tasia Lambrou	29 Maria Kalaitsides Nicholas Margaritakis Olga Snyder
13 Matthew LiCause	30 James Griveas Paula Macris
14 Elaine Christ Mark Langos	
15 Elaine Poulos James Vretas	
16 Georgia DeAngelis Angela Gaitanos George Petrides Michael Sarris	



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FEBRUARY

2 Van Benno Larysa Avyerina Andrea Horaitis George Phillip Michalos	16 Nick Horaitis Erin Worthington
3 Nichole Bahas Antonia Fakelis Francine Nichols Evangeline Smith Caitlin Zoumberakis	17 Sophia Halkias Athan Kapalko Joanna Sirgo John Tsikles
4 Goldie Manos Anastasia Vonortas	18 Catherine Stamatakis Sofia Stamaton
5 Frank Orlando	19 David Hallaman
6 Maria Noussias Adam Varlamos	20 Ellie Morris
7 Chris Panopoulos	21 Theodora Kouris Despina Paxos-Morgan
8 Kelsey Pirovolos	22 Alexa Nastoff
9 George Sotiropoulos	23 Constantinos Paxos Betty Tsangeos
10 Donald Natale Steven Zoumberakis	24 Patrick Burns Theodora Kouris Francesca Tsikles
11 Gia Frustaci Haritina Kakoules	25 Niki Kalantzis Rosemary Karalis Emma Tsikles Erick Zoumberakis
12 Rachel Calandros	26 Emma DeAngelis
13 Evelyn Eustathios Joanna Politis Kosta Volas Voula Waikem	27 Georgia Bench Angela Niro Anna Paxos
14 Nicodemos Kouris	28 Emma Kosmides Jacob Shankel
15 Maria Graf Evangelos Trikkas Eugenia Tsikles	

Welcome!

THEOPHANY

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

EPIPHANY



THE ICON

Christ - The central figure depicted standing in the Jordan River.

Saint John the Forerunner or Baptist - The figure on the left, since he lived as an ascetic in the desert his brown hair and beard are disheveled, his shirt is of brown animal skin and his cloak is green.

The Angels - Standing in an attitude of worship to the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit - Shown in the form of a dove

Christ in his thirtieth year, came to Saint John to inaugurate His three years of ministry.

It was during His Baptism that He was publicly declared to be the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God.

The voice of the Father was heard calling Him His Son and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove appeared above Christ to confirm that it was indeed Jesus of Whom the Father was speaking.

In the worship of God as a Trinity (Three in One) was revealed or manifested, thus the name for the Feast "theophany" meaning "manifestation of God."

By Christ entering the river Jordan, the waters were sanctified.

In remembrance of this, water is blessed and is used to sanctify the bodies and homes of the faithful as well as the entire creation.

