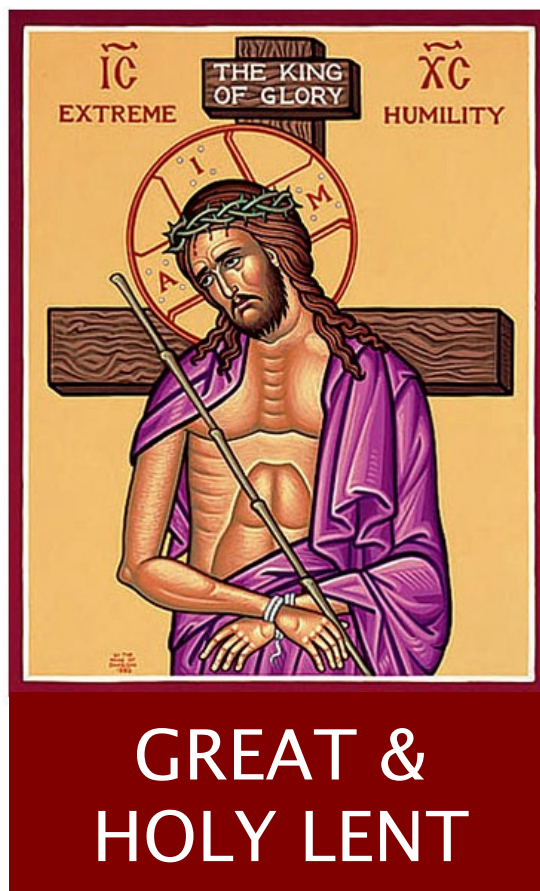




ST. HARALAMBOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CANTON, OHIO

KOINONIA



MARCH & APRIL 2025

2025 PARISH ADMINISTRATORS

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

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DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE:	JOANNA VOLAS
MAIDS OF ATHENA:	GIA SOTIROPOULOS



MARCH LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MARCH 1	SATURDAY	2ND SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 am - Orthros - followed by Divine Liturgy
MARCH 2	SUNDAY	CHEESEFARE SUNDAY 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
MARCH 3	MONDAY	CLEAN MONDAY- GREAT COMPLINE 6:00 pm
MARCH 5	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 pm @ St. George in Massillon
MARCH 7	FRIDAY	FIRST SALUTATIONS 6:30 pm
MARCH 8	SATURDAY	3RD SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 am - Orthros - followed by Divine Liturgy
MARCH 9	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy GREAT VESPERS 5:00 pm @ St. George Serbian
MARCH 10	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE 6:00 pm
MARCH 12	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 pm @ St. Haralambos
MARCH 14	FRIDAY	SECOND SALUTATIONS 6:30 pm
MARCH 16	SUNDAY	ST. GREGORY PALAMAS 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
MARCH 17	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE 6:00 pm
MARCH 19	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 pm @ Holy Trinity, Canton
MARCH 21	FRIDAY	THIRD SALUTATIONS 6:30 pm
MARCH 23	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
MARCH 24	MONDAY	GREAT VESPERS ANNUNCIATION 6:30 pm
MARCH 25	TUESDAY	ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:00 am - Orthros followed by - Divine Liturgy
MARCH 26	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 p.m. @ St. George Antiochian
MARCH 28	FRIDAY	FOURTH SALUTATIONS 6:30 pm
MARCH 30	SUNDAY	ST. JOHN OF CLIMMACUS 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy
MARCH 31	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE 6:00 pm

APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

APRIL 2	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 6:30 pm @ Assumption OCA
APRIL 4	FRIDAY	AKATHIST HYMN 6:30 pm
APRIL 6	SUNDAY	ST. MARY OF EGYPT 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy GREAT VESPERS 5:00 p.m. @ St. Nikolai Mission Alliance
APRIL 7	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE 6:00 pm
APRIL 9	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCITIFIED LITURGY 6:30 pm @ St. George Romanian
APRIL 12	SATURDAY	SATURDAY OF LAZURUS 9:00 am - Orthros, followed by Divine Liturgy Sunday School Retreat - making Palm Crosses
APRIL 13	SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy PALM SUNDAY EVENING - BRIDEGROOM 7:00 pm
APRIL 14	MONDAY	HOLY MONDAY - BRIDEGROOM 7:00 pm
APRIL 15	TUESDAY	HOLY TUESDAY - BRIDEGROOM - SAINT KASSIANE 7:00 pm
APRIL 16	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 9:00 am HOLY WEDNESDAY - HOLY UNCTION 6:00 pm
APRIL 17	THURSDAY	HOLY THURSDAY - ST. BASIL LITURGY 9:00 am HOLY THURSDAY EVENING - 12 GOSPELS 7:00 pm
APRIL 18	FRIDAY	HOLY FRIDAY MORNING - ROYAL HOURS 9:00 am HOLY FRIDAY APOKATHELOSIS 3:00 pm HOLY FRIDAY LAMENTATIONS 7:00 pm
APRIL 19	SATURDAY	HOLY SATURDAY MORNING - ST. BASIL LITURGY 9:00 am HOLY SATURDAY EVENING 11:15 pm - 11:45 pm Orthros

APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR

APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR CONTINUED:

APRIL 20	SUNDAY	HOLY PASCHA - RESURRECTION 12 Midnight Service HOLY PASCHA 12:30 am Orthros HOLY PASCHA - PASCHAL LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 1:00 am HOLY PASCHA, AGAPE VESPERS 11:00 am
APRIL 25	FRIDAY	BRIGHT FRIDAY, THEOTOKOS OF LIFE - GIVING FOUNTAIN 9:00 am - Orthros Divine Liturgy following
APRIL 27	SUNDAY	ST. THOMAS SUNDAY 9:00 am - Orthros 10:00 am - Divine Liturgy



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 †9:00 a.m. 2nd SaturdaySouls
2 †9:00 a.m. Cheese fare Sunday Maids of Athena Pasta Dinner - Krassas Event Ctr.	3 LENT BEGINS †6:00 p.m. Clean Monday - Great Compline 5:30 Phil. Bd. Mtg. 6:45 Phil. Mtg.	4 5:15 p.m. Greek School	5 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at St. George, Mass.	6 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice Outside Event-Tri- Rm & Yth Rm	7 †6:30 p.m. First Salutations Fish Fry - Dine-In & Drive Thru	8 †9:00 a.m. 3rd Saturday of Souls
9 †9:00 a.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy JOY Coffee Hour Project - Krassas Event Ctr. Debutantes' Ball Tea - Tri-Rm & Yth Rm †5:00 p.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers @ St. George Serbian	10 †6:00 p.m. Great Compline	11 5:15 p.m. Greek School Outside Event-Tri- Rm & Yth Rm	12 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at St. Haralambos Presanctified Reception after services- Krassas Event Center	13 Outside Event- Krassas Event Ctr 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	14 †6:30 p.m. Second Salutations	15 Outside Event-Tri- Rm & Yth Rm
16 †9:00 a.m. Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Greek School Program - Krassas Event Ctr.	17 †6:00 p.m. Great Compline	18 11:30 a.m. Silver Liners - Krassas Event Ctr. 3:30 p.m. Bible Study Outside Event-Tri- Rm 5:15 p.m. Greek School 7:00 p.m. Greek Fest Mtg. - Yth Rm	19 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Trinity	20 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	21 †6:30 p.m. Third Salutations Outside Event- Krassas Event Ctr	22 Outside Event-Tri- Rm & Yth Rm
23 †9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Holy Cross GOYA Mtg-Yth Rm	24 †6:30 p.m. Great Vespers, Annunciation of Theotokos	25 †9:00 a.m. Annunciation of the Theotokos	26 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy - St. George Antiochian 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice	27 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	28 †6:30 p.m. Fourth Salutations	29 Outside Event- Krassas Event Ctr
30 †9:00 a.m. St. John Climacus JOY Easter Baskets - Yth Rm	31 †6:00 p.m. Compline					

APRIL 2025 **St. Haralambos Church**

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Outside Event- Krassas Event Ctr 5:15 p.m. Greek School	2 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at Assumption OCA 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice	3 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Dancers' & Parent Meeting	4 †6:30 p.m. Akathist Hymn Fish Fry - Dine-In & Drive Thru	5 Hellenic Dancers' Trivia Night- Krassas Event Ctr
6 †9:00 a.m. St. Mary of Egypt †5:00 p.m. Great Vespers @ St. Nikolai Mission Alliance	7 †6:00 p.m. Great Compline 5:30 p.m. Phil. Bd. Mtg. 6:45 p.m. Phil. Mtg.	8 3:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Greek School	9 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at St. George Romanian 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice	10 Outside Event- Krassas Event Ctr 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	11	12 †9:00 a.m. Saturday of Lazarus Sunday School Lenten Retreat- Making Palm Crosses
13 PALM SUNDAY †9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday †7:00 p.m. Bridegroom	14 HOLY MONDAY †7:00 p.m. Bridegroom	15 HOLY TUESDAY †7:00 p.m. Bridegroom - St. Kassiane Outside Event-Tri- Rm	16 HOLY WEDNESDAY †9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. †Holy Unction	17 HOLY THURSDAY †9:00 a.m. Liturgy of St. Basil †7:00 p.m. Reading of the Twelve Gospels	18 HOLY FRIDAY †9:00 a.m. Reading of the Royal Hours †3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis †7:00 p.m. Lamentations	19 HOLY SATURDAY †9:00 a.m. Liturgy of St. Basil †11:15 pm Orthros
20 HOLY PASCHA †12:00 Midnight Great & Holy Pascha Resurrection †12:30 am Great & Holy Pascha Orthros †1:00 am Great & Holy Pascha - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom †11:00 a.m. Great & Holy Pascha - Agape Service Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	21	22 11:30 a.m. Silver Liners - Krassas Event Ctr. 5:15 p.m. Greek School 7:00 Greek Fest Mtg. - Yth Rm	23	24 7:15 p.m. Deb's Rehearsal - Krassas Event Ctr.	25 BRIGHT FRIDAY †9:00 a.m. Theotokos of the Life Giving Fountain	26 Debutantes' Ball - Krassas Event Ctr.
27 †9:00 a.m. St. Thomas GOYA Mtg -Yth Rm	28	29 5:15 p.m. Greek School	30			



PASTORAL LETTER FOR HOLY AND GREAT LENT

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The season of Great Lent is upon us once more, a season which coincides with springtime and the rebirth of nature and new life which we see all around us. The Holy Church also desires that each of us grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during the forty days of Lent, which culminate at Holy Pascha with the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection.

The purpose of Great Lent is not to make us feel disheartened or uncomfortable in the way we live out our faith, but it is a call to self-examination and for taking a fresh look at our attitude and behavior towards others. Often unknown to ourselves we can little by little become self-centered and lapse into indifference to others.

Our baptism into the Body of Christ does not allow us to pass by on the other side and so ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us. The traditional penitential nature of Great Lent is not intended to punish us, but to remind us of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to put others before ourselves. Awareness of the presence of God surrounding us and of the need to engage in practical acts of charity will ensure that we grow in God's grace and so become ever more Christ-like in this holy season.

The problems and tragedies of the world can at times appear to overwhelm us and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the effect our prayer has before God. The power of prayer has its essential place in our Lenten exercises.

Prayer unites us with all the saints in heaven, and so we are joined in one great surge of prayer which arises before God both day and night. To know the gift of prayer and its unfailing power is one of the great graces of Lent.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we embark on our Lenten journey, let us be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

Let us keep our gaze firmly fixed on Christ this Great Lent, both as a Church and as individual baptized Orthodox Christians, for in His own marvelous words He is the way, the truth, and the life.

With an assurance of my prayers through this Great Lent.

In Christ's Love,
Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas



March 25th

The Annunciation Of The Theotokos

By: Saint Theodore Studite

Brethren in the Lord, the Annunciation is here and it is the first of the Feasts of the Lord, and we should not simply celebrate as most do, but with understanding and with reverence for the mystery. What is the mystery? That the Son of God becomes son of man, using the holy Virgin as the means, dwelling in her and from her fashioning for Himself a temple and becoming perfect man. Why so? "That he might ransom those under the law," as it is written, "and that we might receive sonship" [Gal. 4:5]; that we may no longer be slaves, but free; no longer subject to the passions, but free of passions; no longer friends of the world, but friends of God; no longer walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. "Those who walk according to the flesh, think the things of the flesh; those who walk according to the spirit, the things of the spirit; for the thought of the flesh is death; but the thought of the spirit, life and peace. And so the thought of the flesh is hostile to God, for it is not subject to the law of God. Indeed it cannot be. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God" [Rom. 8:5-8]. In brief this is the power of the mystery, and this is why we should celebrate spiritually and behave spiritually, with holiness and justice, with love, with gentleness, with peace, "with forbearance, with goodness, with the Holy Spirit" [2 Cor. 6:6], so that as far as we ourselves are concerned we do not render the dispensation of our Lord Jesus Christ empty and ineffectual.

Not only that, but we should both pray and grieve for the world. Why so? Because the Son of God came to save the world, and the world rejects Him. Tribes and languages reject Him; the barbarian nations reject Him, those who have had his holy name invoked upon them reject Him, some through abandoning the faith, others through their evil lives. What should He have done and did not do? Being God He became man, "He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, the death of the cross" [Phil. 2,8.]; he gave us His body to eat and His blood to drink; He allowed us to call him Father, Brother, Head, Teacher, Bridegroom, Fellow-heir and all the other titles which there is no time to mention now. And still He is rejected, and still He bears it. "For," He says, I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world" [John 12:47].

What then is there to say, brethren? That the genuine disciples are grieved by the rejections of their fellow disciples, thus showing love both for the teacher and for the disciples. So too, genuine servants suffer in the same way from the desertions of their fellow-servants. This is why the great Apostle orders that "we should offer supplications, prayers, entreaties, thanksgivings on behalf of all mankind, for kings and for all in high positions" [1 Tim. 2:1-2]; and elsewhere he says this on the subject, "I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have a great grief and unceasing anguish in my heart; for I have prayed that I might be anathema to Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" [Rom. 9:1-3]. You see the power of love? You see the height of friendship? Moses shows it too when he says to God, "If you will forgive them their sin, forgive; if not, wipe me out of the book which you have written" [Exodus 32:32]. So we too, as genuine and not counterfeit disciples, should not only look to what concerns ourselves, but we should grieve and pray for our brothers and for the whole world; for by so doing what is pleasing to the Lord we shall become inheritors of eternal life, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be the glory and the might with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Third Sunday of Great Lent ~ The Veneration of the Holy Cross



On the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

As we have “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24), and will have mortified ourselves during these forty days of the Fast, the precious and life-giving Cross is now placed before us to refresh our souls and encourage us who may be filled with a sense of bitterness, resentment, and depression. The Cross reminds us of the Passion of our Lord, and by presenting to us His example, it encourages us to follow Him in struggle and sacrifice, being refreshed, assured, and comforted. In other words, we must experience what the Lord experienced during His Passion - being humiliated in a shameful manner. The Cross teaches us that through pain and suffering we shall see the fulfillment of our hopes: the heavenly inheritance and eternal glory.

As they who walk on a long and hard way and are bowed down by fatigue find great relief and strengthening under the cool shade of a leafy tree, so do we find comfort, refreshment, and rejuvenation under the Life-giving Cross, which our Fathers “planted” on this Sunday. Thus, we are fortified and enabled to continue our Lenten journey with a light step, rested and encouraged.

Or, as before the arrival of the king, his royal standards, trophies, and emblems of victory come in procession and then the king himself appears in a triumphant parade, jubilant and rejoicing in his victory and filling those under him with joy, so does the Feast of the Cross precede the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. It warns us that He is about to proclaim His victory over death and appear to us in the glory of the Resurrection. His Life-Giving Cross is His royal scepter, and by venerating it we are filled with joy, rendering Him glory. Therefore, we become ready to welcome our King, who shall manifestly triumph over the powers of darkness.

The present feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of our tears. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam’s gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree condemnation has been abolished. Therefore, if we bind ourselves to the Holy Cross, we shall never encounter death but shall inherit life eternal.

HOLY WEEK

By: Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve; after that, He was seen of above five thousand brethren at once." 1 Cor. 15:3-6

Approach to Holy Week

Holy Week in the Eastern Orthodox Church institutes the sanctity of the whole calendar year of the Church. Its center of commemorations and inspiration is Easter, wherein the glorified Resurrection of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Every Sunday is dedicated in the Eastern Orthodox Church to the Resurrection of the Lord. One hundred days also are dedicated to Easter, 50 before it for preparation, and another 50 after it for commemorating the glorification of the Lord. Easter is considered the "Feast of Feasts."

The 50 days before Easter, known as a part of the period of Triodion¹ ("three" + "odes"), are the period for strengthening faith in the Lord. The means are well-known to people of spiritual experience. They are *repentance*, which means to change from indifference to full devotion; *prayer*, which is considered the soul of faith, and through which faith emerges from theory into life; and *self-control*, which governs our relationships with our fellowman. These means are practical indicators of our vivid faith in God. With this preparation, we are invited to enter the sanctuary of Holy Week, not as spectators, but as participants in the commemoration and enactment of the divine Acts that changed the world. A Christian must always be well-trained and well-armed to fight against those who try to corrupt his spirit and take away his freedom. The Christian must keep his own spiritual kingdom intact and his freedom of religion and uprightness vivid in order to be a part of the Kingdom of God, where the compassion of the Lord and His Resurrection will be experienced. There is no other place where the Kingdom of God can be expanded except the heart of man; and there is no other gate whereby we can enter the Kingdom but that of "repentance." This was the proclamation of the new era of Jesus Christ, who said, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"* (Matthew 3:2)

The 50 days which follow Easter are signified by the Pentecostarion² (*Gr. Pentikonta* 50). They are dedicated to the spiritual enjoyment of the participants in the deep belief that Almighty God is our Companion in our everyday life and thoughts. It starts with the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. During this period, the Church of Christ, which is His Mystical Body, was instituted and strengthened. His disciples and Apostles were the witnesses of the appearances of the Risen Lord; they were the recipients of the Holy Spirit, Who changed completely their attitude of fear, Who made the Apostles into piercing heralds and ambassadors of the New Message of salvation in the name of Christ, the Savior. This was an experience, teaching, and inspiration they handed down as the treasure of the Christian Faith. Christians are called to commemorate the same divine Events and to enact them in their hearts and minds, based on the realization that *"Christ is Risen."*

The entire Christian confession is contained in the words "Christ is Risen." St. Paul, referring to this fact, clearly and emphatically says: *"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."* (I Corinthians 15:14) This is the reason why, from the beginning, the Church of Christ set forth as the center of its worship and faith the Resurrection of its Lord. From the earliest days after Pentecost, the Apostles designated "the first of the Sabbath" of each week for the remembrance of the Resurrection of our Lord. This day was called the "Lord's Day" in the Revelation of John, who said: *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day..."* (1:10) It was this tradition which the writers and hymnologists of the Orthodox Church had in mind when they wrote hymns and odes for eight consecutive Sundays (Lord's days) having for their subject the Resurrection of Christ as the basic belief of redemption and of worship. The fifth article of the Ecumenical Creed of Faith, the Nicene Creed, refers to this belief as well.

The Resurrection of Christ, in relation to the Crucifixion, constitutes the essence of the Christian Easter, which is the center of the celebrations of worship of God in the Orthodox Church. Herein will be presented the events and services of the Passion Week, recorded in the New Testament, as they exist in the Eastern Orthodox Church today. The Passion Week, from the triumphant entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem until His Resurrection, contains a series of events in the life of Christ the Savior that link prophecy with its fulfillment.

~ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ~

Αγαπητοι μου αδελφοι Εν Χριστω:

Δύο λέξεις «Χριστός Ανέστη» δεν είναι απλά ένας χαιρετισμός, μια συμπεριφορά καθωσπρεπισμού, αλλά αποτελούν τελικά έκφραση ελπίδας και βεβαιότητας και χαράς, γιατί η Ανάσταση του Χριστού είναι η απαρχή μιας νέας βιωτής για τον άνθρωπο, η οποία δεν τελειώνει με τον θάνατο, αλλά ξεκινά με τον ύμνο «θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας» και αυτήν «πολιτεύεται», τονίζει, μεταξύ άλλων, στο πασχαλινό μήνιμα μου.

«Είναι το μήνυμα αυτό που φέρει η Εκκλησία στον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο, τον τραυματισμένο και εξουθενωμένο. Χρειάζεται δηλαδή για τη σωτηρία του. Να βεβαιώσει την εμπιστοσύνη του και την ελπίδα του στον Αναστημένο Χριστό και στην Εκκλησία Του» προσθέτει.

Ολοκληρώθηκε και φέτος μια πορεία, αυτή της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, στην οποίαν συγκεφαλαιώθησαν όλα τα γεγονότα της σωτηρίας του ανθρώπου. Βιώσαμε λειτουργικά «το μέτρο ζωής», με το οποίο ο άνθρωπος σώζεται, ήτοι τον κανόνα «του Σταυρού και της Αναστάσεως».

Η λαμπροφόρος νύχτα της Αναστάσεως είναι πραγματικά η εναργέστατη αποτύπωση αυτού του μυστηρίου της σωτηρίας μας, γι' αυτό και είναι νύχτα χαράς αλλά και κρίσεως. Είναι η νύχτα της δοκιμασίας της πίστης μας και της ελπίδας μας αφού εξαρτάται πλέον από εμάς τους ίδιους εάν είμαστε διατεθειμένοι να ανταποκριθούμε θετικά στην κλήση του Αναστημένου Χριστού με την σταυρική μας ανταπόκριση.

Οι δύο λέξεις «Χριστός Ανέστη» δεν είναι απλά ένας χαιρετισμός, μια συμπεριφορά καθωσπρεπισμού, αλλά αποτελούν τελικά έκφραση ελπίδας και βεβαιότητας και χαράς, γιατί η Ανάσταση του Χριστού είναι η απαρχή μίας νέας βιωτής για τον άνθρωπο, η οποία δεν τελειώνει με τον θάνατο, αλλά ξεκινά με τον ύμνο «θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας» και αυτήν «πολιτεύεται».

Αυτο είναι το μήνυμα αυτό που φέρει η Εκκλησία στον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο, τον τραυματισμένο και εξουθενωμένο. Χρειάζεται δηλαδή για την σωτηρία του, να βεβαιώσει την εμπιστοσύνη του και την ελπίδα του στον Αναστημένο Χριστό και στην Εκκλησία Του.

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ !

Εν Χριστω Αγαπη,

+ Ο Αιδ. Νικόλαος Β. Γαμβας

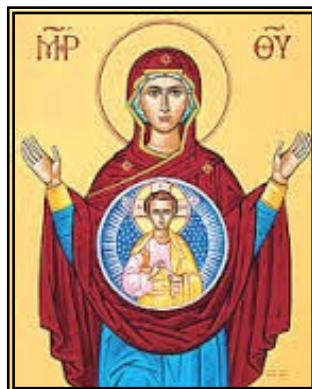
THE AKATHIST HYMN

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556. The Akathist Hymn has proven so popular in the liturgical life of the Church that many other hymns have been written following its format. These include Akathists to Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross, and to many Saints.

The Akathist hymn consists of praises directed to the Theotokos, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin's womb. The unborn John the Baptist prophetically rejoices. The shepherds recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb, and rejoice that in the Virgin "the things of earth join chorus with the heavens." The pagan Magi following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world.

The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," i.e., standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, arranged in an acrostic following the Greek alphabet. The stanzas alternate between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded."

The first part of the hymn is about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel. It describes Mary's surprise at the news, her visit to her mother and Joseph's doubts as to her innocence. The second part is about the birth of Christ, the worship of the Shepherds and Magi, the flight to Egypt and the visit to Saint Simeon in the Temple. In the third part the hymn directs our attention to the renewal of the world by Christ's coming, and the amazement of the Angels and the wise men at the sight of the Incarnation of God's Son. The fourth and the last part is once more a lyric and rhetorical appraisal of Virgin Mary, whom the poet adorns with the most beautiful of adjectives asking her to accept his poetical offering and to intercede for the salvation of human race from the earthly sin.



Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

+ Ο Αιδ. Νικολαος Β. Γαμβας

Εὐαγγελικό Ανάγνωσμα 25 Μαρτίου. (Λουκα 1:24–28)) Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις συνέλαβεν Ἑλισάβετ ἡ γυνὴ Ζαχαρίου, καὶ περιέκρυβεν ἑαυτὴν μῆνας πέντε, λέγουσα ὅτι οὕτω μοι πεποίηκεν ὁ Κύριος ἐν ἡμέραις αἷς ἐπεΐδεν ἀφελεῖν τὸ ὄνειδός μου ἐν ἀνθρώποις. Ἐν δὲ τῷ μηνὶ τῷ ἕκτῳ ἀπεστάλη ὁ ἄγγελος Γαβριὴλ ὑπὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰς πόλιν τῆς Γαλιλαίας, ἥ ὄνομα Ναζαρέτ, πρὸς παρθένον μεμνηστευμένην ἀνδρὶ, ὃ ὄνομα Ἰωσήφ, ἐξ οἴκου Δαυὶδ, καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς παρθένου Μαριάμ. καὶ εἰσελθὼν ὁ ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτὴν εἶπε· χαῖρε, κεχαριτωμένη· ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ· εὐλογημένη σὺ ἐν γυναιξίν. ἡ δὲ ἰδοῦσα διαταράχθη ἐπὶ τῷ λόγῳ αὐτοῦ, καὶ διελογίζετο ποταπὸς εἶη ὁ ἀσπασμὸς οὗτος. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ ἄγγελος αὐτῇ· μὴ φοβοῦ, Μαριάμ· εὗρες γὰρ χάριν παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ. καὶ ἰδοὺ συλλήψῃ ἐν γαστρὶ καὶ τέξῃ υἱόν, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν. οὗτος ἔσται μέγας καὶ υἱὸς ὑψίστου κληθήσεται, καὶ δώσει αὐτῷ Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς τὸν θρόνον Δαυὶδ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ βασιλεύσει ἐπὶ τὸν οἶκον Ἰακώβ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, καὶ τῆς βασιλείας αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἔσται τέλος. εἶπε δὲ Μαριάμ πρὸς τὸν ἄγγελον· πῶς ἔσται μοι τοῦτο, ἐπεὶ ἄνδρα οὐ γινώσκω; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ ἄγγελος εἶπεν αὐτῇ· Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον ἐπελεύσεται ἐπὶ σέ καὶ δύναμις ὑψίστου ἐπισκιάσει σοί· διὸ καὶ τὸ γεννώμενον ἅγιον κληθήσεται υἱὸς Θεοῦ. καὶ ἰδοὺ Ἑλισάβετ ἡ συγγενὴς σου καὶ αὕτη συνειληφυῖα υἱὸν ἐν γήρει αὐτῆς, καὶ οὗτος μὴν ἕκτος ἐστὶν αὐτῇ τῇ καλουμένῃ στείρᾳ· ὅτι οὐκ ἀδυνατήσῃ παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ πᾶν ρῆμα. εἶπε δὲ Μαριάμ· ἰδοὺ ἡ δούλη Κυρίου· γένοιτό μοι κατὰ τὸ ρῆμά σου. καὶ ἀπῆλθεν ἀπ’ αὐτῆς ὁ ἄγγελος.

Ἡ Κεχαριτωμένη Κόρη τῆς Ναζαρέτ, ἀφοῦ ἄκουσε τὶς ἀκατάληπτες αὐτῆς βουλὲς τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀπὸ τὸν ἄγγελο, θαυμάζει καὶ ἀπορεῖ. «Πῶς θὰ συντελεσθῇ τὸ μυστήριον;» ἐρωτᾷ. Καὶ ὁ ἀρχάγγελος τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἀποκρίνεται: «Πνεῦμα Ἅγιο θὰ ἔλθῃ μέσα σου, ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου θὰ σὲ ἐπισκιάσῃ. Οἱ φυσικοὶ νόμοι θὰ παραμερισθοῦν. Τὸ ἀναμάρτητο καὶ ἅγιο βρέφος ποὺ θὰ γεννηθῇ θὰ εἶναι ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Ὑψίστου». Καὶ ἡ πάναγνος Παρθένος τῆς Ναζαρέτ κλίνει τὴν ἀγία τῆς κεφαλῇ καὶ ἀποδέχεται τὴν βουλή τοῦ Θεοῦ. «Ἰδοὺ ἡ δούλη Κυρίου», λέγει. «Υποτάσσομαι πλήρως καὶ τελείως. Ἄς γίνῃ ὅπως ἀκριβῶς μοῦ εἶπες». Μεγάλῃ ἡ ἀποστολή, μοναδική. Καὶ ἀξιώνεται νὰ τὴν ἐκπληρώσῃ ἡ ἀπλὴ καὶ ταπεινὴ κόρη τῆς Ναζαρέτ. Ἀλλὰ γιατί ἀνάμεσα στὰ δισεκατομμύρια ὄλων τῶν γυναικῶν τοῦ κόσμου, ὄλων τῶν αἰώνων, ὁ Θεὸς ξεχωρίζει καὶ λαμπρύνει καὶ τιμᾷ τὴν κόρη τῆς Ναζαρέτ καὶ τὴν καθιστᾷ μητέρα του;

Τί εἶχε ἡ πτωχὴ Παρθένος τῆς Ναζαρέτ; Πλούτη καὶ δόξα; Κοινωνικὴ θέσι καὶ καταξίωσι; Ἀνώτερη παιδεία καὶ σοφία; Τίποτε ἀπ’ ὅλα ὅσα θαμπώνουν τοὺς ἀνθρώπους τοῦ κόσμου! Τὴν διαλέγει ὁ Θεὸς γιὰ τὴν ἀρετὴ τῆς, ἡ ὁποία φανερώνεται κρυστάλλινη καὶ μέσα ἀπὸ τὰ λόγια καὶ τὶς ἀποκρίσεις τῆς κατὰ τὴν συγκλονιστικὴ αὐτὴ στιγμή τῆς ζωῆς τῆς. Εἶναι ἡ ταπεινή. «Δούλη Κυρίου» ὀνομάζει τὸν ἑαυτό τῆς, μολονότι εἶναι ἡ μόνη ἄξια νὰ γίνῃ μητέρα Θεοῦ. Καὶ ὅσο ὁ Θεὸς τὴν ὑψώνει, τόσο αὐτὴ ταπεινώνεται. Ἀλλὰ ἡ ταπεινὴ Δέσποινα τῆς Ναζαρέτ εἶ-ναι καὶ τὸ ὑπόδειγμα τῆς ὑπακοῆς στὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἡ ὑπακοή τῆς αὐτῇ εἶναι τὸ ἀπαύγασμα τῆς ταπεινώσεώς τῆς. Παραδίδει τὸν ἑαυτό τῆς ὁλόκληρο, γιὰ νὰ λάβῃ μέρος στὸ ὑπεροχώτερο ἔργο τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ. Υποτάσσεται κατὰ πάντα. Γι’ αὐτὲς λοιπὸν τὶς μεγάλες ἀρετὲς ποὺ εἶχε ἡ Παναγία μας ὁ ἄγγελος τὴν ὠνόμασε

Κεχαριτωμένη. Διότι εἶχε ἐπάνω τῆς τὰ ὑπερφυσικὰ χαρίσματα τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος σὲ ὕψιστο βαθμό. Γι’ αὐτὸ καὶ ὁ Θεὸς τὴν ἐδιάλεξε νὰ φέρῃ στὸν κόσμο τὸν Σωτῆρα Χριστό, τὸν Βασιλέα τῶν ὄλων. Ἡ Παναγία Παρθένος δίνει τὸ παράδειγμα σ’ ὅλους μας. Παράδειγμα ἀρετῆς καὶ ἀγιότητος, ταπεινώσεως καὶ ὑπακοῆς. Καὶ μᾶς ζητεῖ σιωπηλὰ νὰ τὴν μιμηθοῦμε. Νὰ ταπεινοφρονοῦμε καὶ ν’ ἀκολουθοῦμε τὸν βίον τῆς ἀρετῆς καὶ τῆς ἀγιότητος. Κι αὐτὴ θὰ μᾶς σκέπῃ καὶ θὰ μᾶς περιφρουρῇ. Ὅπως τὸ ἔκανε καὶ στὸ πολυβασανισμένο ἔθνος μας καὶ τὸ βοήθησε τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς ἐορτῆς τῆς νὰ σηκώσῃ τὴν σημαία τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ νὰ ὀδηγηθῇ στὴ λύτρωσι. Στὴν προστασία τῆς νὰ καταφεύγουμε πάντοτε καὶ νὰ τῆς ζητοῦμε νὰ μᾶς λυτρώνῃ «ἐκ παντοίων κινδύνων», κι ἐμᾶς καὶ τὸ ἔθνος μας.

Η Μεγάλη ΄Σαρακοστή

Αγαπητω μου Εκκλησιασμα:

«Τό στάδιο τῶν ἀρετῶν ἔχει ἀνοίξει, ὅσοι θέλετε νά ἀθληθεῖται ἐλάτε μέσα σ' αὐτό...» Μέ αὐτά τά λόγια ἡ Ἐκκλησία, μᾶς καλωσορίζει στά πνευματικά ἀγωνίσματα τῆς νηστείας, τῆς προσευχῆς καί τῆς μετανοίας, τά ὁποῖα εἶναι ἀλληλένδετα καί μαζί μέ τήν φιλανθρωπία προάγουν τήν πνευματική μας ἀναβάθμιση. Ὡς ἀγωνισθοῦμε μέ ταπεινό φρόνημα, διακριτικά καί θεάρεστα, μέ τή βεβαιότητα, ὅτι Θεός θά ἀποδώσει στόν καθένα τό ὀφειλόμενον. Ὡς μή δειλιάσουμε ἐξαιτίας τοῦ μεγέθους ἢ τοῦ ὄγκου τῶν ἀγωνισμάτων. Ὁ καθένας μέ τή δύναμή του ἄς ἀγωνισθεῖ κι ὁ Θεός θά σκεπάσει μέ τή χάρη Του τόν ἀγῶνα μας, ἀφοῦ γιά τήν ἀγάπη του γίνεται. Διότι εὐτυχῶς «ἡ μεγαλύτερη φιλανθρωπία τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅπως λέει ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ὁ Θεολόγος, εἶναι πῶς ὄχι ἀνάλογα μέ τό ἀποτέλεσμα, ἀλλά ἀνάλογα μέ τή διάθεση καί τήν προαίρεση μετράει ὁ Θεός τήν ἐπίδοσή μας καί παρέχει τήν εὐλογία Του.»

Καλή καί εὐλογημένη ἡ ἐπί θύραις Ἀγία καί Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή.

Μετά πολλῶν εὐχῶν καί ἀγάπης Χριστοῦ,

+ Ο Αιδ. Νικολαος Β. Γαμβας



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

Confession is a Sacrament, or Mystery, of the Church, a way in which we can experience God in His fullness here on earth. When we sin, we damage our relationship with God and with the members of His Body, the Church. Sin ultimately alienates us from God, from our fellow human beings, and from our own true selves. During Confession, we acknowledge our sins out loud to God in the presence of the priest.

The early Christian community had a specific practice in this regard: people would stand and confess their sins to God in the presence of the whole congregation. Indeed, Jesus encouraged His followers to walk in the light together, to confront problems corporately, to “tell it to the Church” (Mt. 18:17). Thus, James writes, “Confess your trespasses to one another” (5:16). But as time went on and the Church grew in numbers, strangers came to visit and public confession became more difficult. Out of mercy, priests began to witness confessions of sin privately on behalf of the Church.

The Scriptures clearly illustrate the authority Christ gave His disciples – and their successors via the laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6) – to forgive sins (John 20:23; see also Mt. 16:19). From the beginning, Christians understood that the grace of ordination endowed the shepherd of the flock with the discernment and compassion to offer guidance and remit confessed sins on behalf of Christ.

One clarification: we do not confess *to the priest himself*; we confess to God *in the presence of the priest*. You might ask, “But can’t I just confess to God privately? Why do I need a priest?” You most certainly can confess to God in personal prayer; however, there is no clear biblical basis for this practice. Even general confession occurs within the context of the Body of the Church. In His mercy, God provides the sacrament of confession to give us deliverance from sin and from denial. It is easy for us to pray in isolation yet never come clean about our sins or attempt to change. It is far more effective to confess aloud to God before a priest and benefit from his guidance and help.

Through the Grace of God, the priest became a spiritual doctor when he was ordained. He is well-versed in the sicknesses of the soul that sin can cause. We look to him to guide us, to diagnose our sickness and help us to live a more godly life. He draws on the knowledge of the Orthodox Church and the Holy Fathers to provide you with a “treatment” for your sins, so you can walk away from Confession free from your guilt, absolved of the evils you have done. And then, you can strive to “go and sin no more” (John 8:11).





Greek Independence Day

March 25

A GREEK HOLIDAY AND A RELIGIOUS FEASTDAY

Greek Independence Day, a national holiday celebrated annually in Greece on March 25, commemorating the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821. It coincides with the Greek Orthodox Church's celebration of the Annunciation to the Theotokos, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear the son of God.

Greece had been part of the Ottoman Empire since 1453. The Greek revolt was precipitated on March 25, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese. The cry "Freedom or death" became the motto of the revolution. The Greeks experienced early successes on the battlefield, including the capture of Athens in June 1822, but infighting ensued. By 1827 Athens and most of the Greek isles had been recaptured by the Turks.

Just as the revolution appeared to be on the verge of failure, Great Britain, France, and Russia intervened in the conflict. The Greek struggle had elicited strong sympathy in Europe, and many leading intellectuals had promoted the Greek cause, including the English poet Lord Byron. At the naval Battle of Navarino, the combined British, French, and Russian forces destroyed an Ottoman-Egyptian fleet. The revolution ended in 1829 when the Treaty of Edirne established an independent Greek state.

The Celebration of the Greek Revolution of 1821 (Greek: Εορτασμός της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης του 1821, *Eortasmós tis Ellinikís Epanástasis tou 1821*), also known as Independence Day is a national holiday in Greece, Cyprus as well as in the Greek diaspora celebrated on March 25. It commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire, and the formation of an independent Greek state which coincides with the Greek Orthodox Feast of the Annunciation.

Greek Independence Day is celebrated in many cities outside of Greece with large Greek diaspora communities. In the United States annual parades are held in cities like: Boston, Chicago, and New York. An annual reception at the White House hosted by the President of the United States attended by many prominent Greek Americans has also been held since the tradition was first started by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, A Presidential proclamation is also issued celebrating the day.

Every year on March 25, the country of Greece celebrates Greek Independence Day. Like elsewhere around the world, the day is marked with national pride, happiness, and is a special holiday to the people of Hellas. Hence, the saying on this special day:

ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! Long Live Greece!



ASK FATHER NICK...

Q: Did John the Baptist and Jesus know each other as close relatives?

Penny Ralles

A: To what extent John the Baptist and Jesus knew each other is an open question. While Mary and Elizabeth clearly knew each other (Luke 1:39), the Gospel does not give us any indication as to how close they were and whether their children would have spent much time together growing up.

There are numerous reasons why Jesus and John the Baptist might not have spent much time together. Perhaps Mary and Elizabeth were not very close and did not spend time together outside of family gatherings. Perhaps Elizabeth and Zechariah died when John the Baptist was very young and he was sent to live with relatives who lived farther away, and Mary was even less connected with them. Perhaps after Herod's massacre both families decided it was best to stay apart from each other.

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist explicitly denies knowing Jesus except by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (John 1:31-32).

On the other hand, in the Gospel of Matthew, John instantly upon seeing Jesus proclaimed himself unworthy to baptize Jesus (Matt. 3:14).

It's also entirely possible that while John knew who Jesus was and that Jesus had a special mission from God, he did not fully understand the implications of it all until the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove.

QUESTIONS from the Sunday School:

Q: Why do we pray to saints?

A: To be accurate, we pray with the saints, not to them. Much the same as you would ask your friends, family or other Christians to pray for you, we ask the saints to intercede on our behalf. We don't pray to the saints "instead" of to God, just as any Christian does not ask his fellow Christians to pray for him instead of going directly to God with his concerns. Rather, we enlist Saints, along with the rest of the Church, to pray to God to hear us and have mercy on us. No saint would ever get between anyone and God. Rather, they always pray for us to God so that we can become one with Him just as they did.

Q: Why are there icons everywhere?

A: Icons are in some sense our "family album". In the same way that many people keep photo albums to help them remember people and events, we keep the icons to remind us of people and events. They adorn the walls of our worship spaces. Most Orthodox Christians also have an icon corner in their home.



ASK FATHER NICK...

QUESTIONS from the Sunday School:

Q: Why do we mention the Virgin Mary Theotokos so much?

A: As the one who gave birth to God Himself in the flesh, we hold her in high reverence and respect. It only makes sense that we should love someone who literally held God inside her for nine months. She also shows us the way to become one with her divine Son—humility, love and obedience to Him. Why is she so important? Mary stands witness that Jesus Christ is fully human, even while being fully God. The early Christians made a point of inserting into the Nicene Creed (AD 325) the statement that Christ was “incarnate... of the Virgin Mary” to ensure there was no confusion on this matter.

Q: Why do we pray to the Virgin Mary?

A: As for prayers, we pray with Mary, and ask her to intercede on our behalf, as we do with all our Saints. It's no different than asking your own mother to pray for you. And in this case, we're asking Jesus' mother to pray for us.

Q: Why do we cross yourselves?

A: Jesus calls us to “take up [our] cross,” and this is a visible identification with that command of our Lord. We make the sign of the cross to remind us of Christ's conquest of death on the cross. Making the sign of the cross is not unique to Orthodoxy—Roman Catholics also make the sign of the cross, as do many Protestants, including Anglicans/Episcopalians and some Lutherans (including Martin Luther himself). But, the Orthodox cross themselves right to left, signifying the Eastern direction of the crucifixion, resurrection, and the awaited second coming of Christ.

Q: Why do we use incense?

A: Our worship is not merely mental—we use all our senses, sight, smell, sound, taste and touch. Incense wafting upwards symbolizes our prayer rising to God in heaven. The Scriptures always depict incense when they describe worship in Heaven (Is. 6:4; Rev. 8:3-5), and incense is mentioned in the worship of God on Earth well over 100 times in the Bible. The Prophet Malachi even predicted that incense would be characteristic of Christian worship (Mal. 1:11).

Q: Do you have to be Orthodox to be saved?

A: In a word, no. However, we believe that Orthodoxy represents the fullness of the faith—that is, the most complete and accurate expression possible by man. God honors truthful belief and proper faith anywhere it is found. Then why become Orthodox? The fullness of the faith is found here, the fullness of the truth is found here, and the fullness of worship is found here. Simply put, why want only a sandwich when they could have a banquet? While it may be possible to be saved outside the normal boundaries of the historic Church Jesus Christ founded—the Orthodox Church—it is not something that should be counted on. Christ never explicitly revealed any alternate paths to salvation except in His one Church.



A Perspective on Great Lent and Great & Holy Pascha

By the grace of God, we have arrived at the liturgical season of Great Lent & Holy Pascha. This is the time of the year that we are called to reflect upon our commitment to the Lord and to draw closer to Him by fasting, increased prayer life, increased church attendance & receiving of the Holy Sacraments. By actively participating in the liturgical life of the church, we voluntarily are drawing closer to Jesus, and the life that He wants us to live.

We must always remember that the Son of God assumed our human nature to rescue us from misery into which humanity plunged into by sin. We were in such a pitiable state, for we were living in continual sin, in spite of having been created by God to lead holy lives in this world and in the next to enjoy eternal happiness.

We had fallen prey and were & continue to be deceived into ignorance of God's will for our lives, malice & all forms of sins. We were destined for eternal destruction by our chosen lifestyles. The Lord recognized that we needed to be saved from the penalties of sin, instructed in the truth, urged to do right, and encouraged to look forward to a joyful future in this life as well as the next.

Jesus Christ enabled us, despite our tendency to evil, nevertheless, to avoid it, for, as St. Paul says: "the grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men, instructing us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live soberly, and justly, and godly in this world, looking for the blessed hope and coming of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and might cleanse to Himself a people acceptable, a pursuer of good works" Titus 2: 11-14.

Christ instructed men on the subject of good and evil, setting them an example of holy life; He bestowed grace on all who wished to amend for "what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh and of sin, He had condemned sin in the flesh that the justification of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit" Rom. 8: 3-4.

Jesus also established His Church (His Bride) that aims at equipping us with all the necessary tools to "survive" in this world and giving us joy through His Sacraments thus preparing us for the world to come.

Jesus Christ redeemed us by His Passion and Death, as St. John tells us: "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for those of the whole world" 1 John 2:2. St. Paul, too, says; "As by the offense of one, unto all men to condemnation; so also by the justice of one, unto all men to justification of life" Rom. 5:18; and again: "Christ died for all, that they also who live may not now live to themselves, but unto Him who died for them and rose again" 2 Cor. 5:15. Faith in the redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ should be to us a source of extreme comfort and encouragement. Man being stained with original sin, had lost all hope of eternal happiness and deliverance from the guilt and punishment of his actual sins. How miserable would have been our lot had Christ not redeemed us by his life, passion, death, and resurrection and shown us the sanctity of the law, the shame of sin and the beauty of virtue! He encourages us to aim to change our lives and become like him (theosis), to be humble, patient, charitable, forgiving, and to be grateful to Almighty God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

St. Augustine states: "O unfathomable mercy! O love, never sufficiently to be extoled! Thou didst send Thy Son to release a servant, and God became man to rescue fallen man from the powers of evil. Truly the most ardent lover of man is Thy Son, our Lord and God for whom, in His great love, it was not enough to lower Himself and take flesh from the Holy Theotokos; He desired to suffer also the death of the Cross, and to shed His blood for our salvation. He, the good God, in all His gentleness and love, came to seek and save that which was lost. Who ever imagined such love and mercy? Who would not marvel at the multitude of His compassions? Who would not exult in His unspeakable charity? Thou didst send Thy Son to condemn sin in the flesh and to fulfil in Him thy Justice towards us! What thank offering can we make Thee, O God, for Thy great goodness and mercy?"

With all this in mind we need to make the best possible effort to use the Lenten period for our spiritual growth. The Lord knows our hearts and rewards our efforts.

Myself, along with Diakonisa Melissa, Kerissa, Costandinos & Xenia wish everyone a blessed and spiritually uplifting Lenten Season and a Glorious Resurrection (Paschal Season).

Proposed Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2025

January 22 Meeting

February 12 Meeting

February 16 - Name Day Dinner

March 20 Meeting

April 10 Meeting

April 13-20 – Holy Week

May 14 Meeting

May 18 - General Assembly

June 5 -7 Greek Fest

July 16 Meeting

August 7 Meeting

August 15 – Assumption of Virgin Mary

August 17 – Paniyri

September 17 Meeting

October 15 Meeting

November 19 Meeting

December 10 Meeting

December 14 - General Assembly

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Canton, Ohio



Official Notice of a
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Immediately after church services

AGENDA

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Election of Chairman
- C. Previous General Assembly Minutes Approval
- D. Priest's Report
- E. President's Report
- F. Stewardship Committee Report
- G. Finance Committee Report
- H. Endowment Committee Report
- I. Maintenance Committee Report
- J. Fundraising Committee Report
 - a. Catering & Event Center Report
 - b. Canton Greek Fest Report
 - c. Fish Fry Report
- K. Organization Reports
 - a. Silver Liners
 - b. Philoptochos
 - c. Choir
 - d. Hellenic Dancers
 - e. Sunday School
 - f. Greek School
 - g. GOYA
 - h. JR. GOYA
 - i. JOY
 - j. YAL
- L. Report of Auditing Committee
- M. Election of Board of Elections
- N. Old Business
- O. New Business
- P. Good of the Church
- Q. Closing Prayer

†Rev. Dr. Nicholas V. Gamvas
Protopresbyter

Chris Gaitanos
Parish Council President

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

CONFESSIONS

Confession is a cleansing of the soul of troubling emotions, feelings, guilt, and sin. The sacrament of confession leads to forgiveness and a re-establishment of one's relationship with God.

Father Nicholas is now welcoming appointments for Confessions.

To schedule your appointment, please call Father Nick at 330-454-7278.
Thank you!

GOOD FRIDAY - LAMENTATIONS

Please submit this form to the church office. Thank you.

Requested by:

COMMEMORATION

(First names only, Baptismal if known, please print.)

[illegible]

Saturday of Souls

ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ



IN MEMORY OF

ΕΙΣΜΝΗΜΗΝ

**MAY THEIR MEMORY
BE ETERNAL!**

Please return this form
to the church office.
Thank you!

SATURDAY OF SOULS

[illegible]

GREAT LENTEN PAN ORTHODOX CALENDAR 2025

March 5th ~ St. George - Massillon @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 9th ~ St. George Serbian @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 12th ~ St. Haralambos, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 19th ~ Holy Trinity, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 26th ~ St. George Antiochian @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

April 2nd ~ Assumption OCA, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

**April 6th ~ St. Nikolai Mission Alliance @ 5:00 p.m.
Great Vespers**

April 9th ~ St. George Romanian @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER NICK

Tuesday, March 18th.
&

Tuesday, April 8th.

3:30 to 4:30 pm



*Interested in learning the ancient art of
Byzantine Chant?*

Instructor: Savvas Bournelis

When: Every Thursday @ 6:00 p.m.

Where: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

For details, email: sbournelis@hchc.edu



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: March 9
April 6

TEAM B: March 16
April 13

TEAM C: March 23
April 20

TEAM D: March 2
March 30
April 27

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
Brayden Michael Johnson

TEAM D

Luke Morgan
Yianni Fakelis
Ianni Colón
Dino Shiepis

What should we fast from?

Orthodox Tradition counsels us to fast from any food products that contain blood. Christ shed His blood for us, so we do not consume any “blood” or “animal” products. That means we fast from meat, fish with vertebrae (shellfish is okay), dairy products (including eggs), oil, and wine. (Oil and wine, up until the last couple of centuries, were stored in skins of animals. This is why we can eat grapes and olives, but not wine or olive oil.

Though food is one of the key things people think of when they think of fasting, one does not always fast from food alone. For example, we should always try to fast from harsh speech, idle time, etc. during a fast. There are so many ways you can grow spiritually through this practice.

Fasting is joyful for the Orthodox

Fasting, then, is not an exercise in dark, gloomy remorse in the Orthodox Church. It is a joyful act that benefits both our souls and our bodies. And it is this joy that transforms days and seasons of fasting – and, in fact, every season of our lives – into times of rejoicing. Rejoicing in the opportunity to change our words, our thoughts, our actions, and our lives through conquering those things which all too often conquer and control us.



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

FINNIGAN ANTHONY ORLANDO, son of Joe and Lindley Orlando and grandson of Frank and Patty Orlando, was born on February 7, 2025.

ELAINA CHRISTINE LUDWIG, daughter of Kaleb and Samantha Ludwig and granddaughter of George and Carrie Foradis, was born February 21, 2025.

BAPTISMS

CHARLOTTE JANE (CONSTANTINA) MORRIS was baptized on December 22, 2024. She is the daughter of Jonathan & Elizabeth (Michalos) Morris. Her Godmother is Christina (Michalos) Broadnax.



My heartfelt thank you to Father Nick, Parish Council and my St. Haralambos church family for the outpouring of texts, phone calls and voicemails following my recent accident.

By the grace of God and your "healing" prayers, I am on the mend without surgery on my fractured wrist and shoulder. Though it will take time, I look forward to returning to serve along side my wonderful church family. May God keep you safe and healthy.

With Christian love,
Tina Bolon

DEATHS

Helen (Varavvas) Bozeka
January 8, 2025

Mary V. (Vaitsis) Hadjian
January 26, 2025

UPCOMING MEMORIALS:

2yr memorial: March 2, 2025
Gus Fakelis

4yr memorial: March 30, 2025
Mario Gaitanos

5yr memorial: March 30, 2025
Peter Gaitanos

7yr memorial: April 6, 2025
Christine Creekus-Wolf

3yr memorial: May 4, 2025
Katherine Kapalko

8yr memorial: May 4, 2025
Dennis Kapalko

NOTES:

To my Canton friends and family:

I miss you so much, and I pray for your good health and happiness. One of the good things that being sheltered-in-place has brought for me is that I now have some time to go through old family photos and letters. My father, Tony Manos - I hope some of you remember him - sent me a letter almost every week saying that I was in college, and beyond. I am grateful that I have saved them.

Michelle Manos - Fulsom, CA

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY GUS PIROVOLOS!



Saint Haralambos Church **SCHOLARSHIPS**



Scholarship applications are available in the church office
or in the organizer located outside of the church office.

The Michael and Dolly Sousaris Memorial Scholarship



The Michael and Dolly Sousaris Memorial Scholarship committee
announces the availability of scholarship application for 2025.

Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school students
OR students presently enrolled in a higher education program.

Applications for these scholarships are available in the church office and must
be completed and returned to the church office by May 31, 2025.

The two scholarships will be awarded by July 31, 2025 directly to the students.

2025 AHEPA Scholarships

Apply Now Online!

Instructions and Applications are available for:

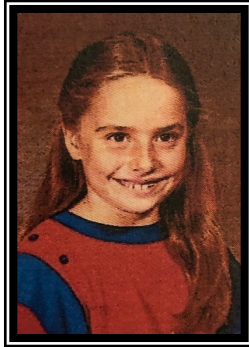
Canton Chapter 59 at: ahepa59.org (April 30, Deadline)

Buckeye District 11 at: buckeyedistrict11.org (March 31, Deadline)

AHEPA National at: ahepa.org (March 31, Deadline)

Contact: John Karipides (330) 283-0113
Paul Koskovich (330) 327-4079

*Saint Haralambos Sunday School
Laura Anne Dieringer Memorial Scholarship 2025*



Laura Anne Dieringer was one of our littlest angels, attending Sunday School until October 1984 when God took her home to join His family of angels in Heaven. Laura is still remembered for her joyful enthusiasm and eagerness for knowledge of our Orthodox faith through Sunday School attendance, so it is fitting that this scholarship be given in her memory and honor.

The \$500 scholarship is being made available through the joint collaboration of Sunday School and Mr. John Tsangeos, Laura's grandfather, of blessed memory, who graciously continues to co-sponsor this scholarship annually in loving memory of his precious granddaughter.

The scholarship is available to all graduating seniors of Sunday School who meet the following requirements/criteria/qualifications:

- Applicant must be a registered student of the Sunday School program from the beginning of the school year and complete the program through his/her senior year of high school to graduation.
- Applicant must be in good standing with regular Sunday School class attendance.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a college or technical program.
- Applicant must write and submit an essay of 200 words or less how he/she has grown in his/her Orthodox Faith through regular Sunday School attendance and what has been the most meaningful and spiritually rewarding personal experience through class participation.
- Essay deadline is Sunday, May 4, 2025.

Please submit your essay by the May 4th deadline to:

Saint Haralambos Sunday School
251 - 25th Street NW
Canton, Ohio 44709

Recipients will be announced Sunday, May 18, 2025, Sunday School Recognition Sunday.

Thank you and God bless.

Harry A. Thomas Memorial Scholarship – 2025

Harry A. Thomas, born and raised in Canton, Ohio, from a young age, loved his church of St. Haralambos. He developed a strict work ethic from delivering papers as a young news boy and became a man of great wealth both spiritually and literally. He became a very successful businessman, entrepreneur, friend, and a very generous philanthropist. Years ago, he gave back to his Church by developing an Endowment Fund to St. Haralambos with the focus to perpetuate the faith and to have monies available to its youth for educational purposes. On March 13, 2011, Mr. Thomas fell asleep in the Lord, and left behind a Memorial Scholarship to be given to qualified seniors graduating high school and entering universities and colleges. Such was the nature of this humble man. We owe him much gratitude. May his memory be eternal.

Eligibility Requirements

To receive a scholarship, an applicant must fulfill all of the requirements:

1. Be a high school graduate. (or)
2. Be a full-time undergraduate in an accredited university, college or technical school.
3. **The applicant's family must be a member in good standing at St. Haralambos at the time of requesting the application (specifically, fulfillment of its 2024 stewardship pledge and submittal of its 2025 stewardship pledge card).**
4. Prior scholarship winners at either level are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the following (in alphabetical order only):

1. Character
2. Demonstration of determination to complete her or his education
3. Financial need
4. Scholastic achievement
5. School, community and church activities

Application

A complete application consists of four parts (any omission will result in disqualification).

1. Application form. Please note that there are separate application forms for Graduating High School Seniors (pages 3 & 4 of the attached application) and for Continuing College Students (pages 5 & 6 of the attached application).
2. Confidential Statement of Parent or Guardian (page 7 of the attached application).
3. Official transcript of grades from your educational institution (with an official seal or signed by an authorized school official).
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters from relatives of the applicant are NOT acceptable. One of your letters must be from an educator (pages 8 & 9 of the attached application). Applicants may use letters of recommendation from prior years.

Deadline

Completed applications must be received by Friday, June 27, 2025 or mailed with a postmark by Thursday, June 26, 2025. Late or incomplete applications will NOT be considered. Mail applications to:

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
c/o Harry A. Thomas Memorial Scholarship
251 25th Street, N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709

Awards will be announced by Sunday, July 27, 2025. Applicants will be notified by phone or mail of the results of the competition. Formal presentation of the awards will be made after notification. The applicant and/or family representative(s) is strongly encouraged to attend the presentation.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact John Kellamis at (330) 351-1339.

ST. HARALAMBOS MEN'S CLUB XEN GRIVEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

The Men's Club of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church offers two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in scholarships each year for the benefit of high school graduates entering college. The amount will be divided among two qualified applicants.

Applicants for the scholarships must meet the following requirements:

- 1) The applicant's family must be an active member of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church and in good standing.*
- 2) The applicant must be a high school graduate of a Stark or Summit County High School and prepared to meet the entrance requirements in a regular college course of a recognized educational institution of higher learning.*
- 3) The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic ability, community involvement, extra curricular activities and financial need.*
- 4) Every applicant must complete the application of the Men's Club, provide a transcript of high school grades, and send a letter summarizing an applicant's accomplishments and reasons why the applicant feels he or she should receive the scholarship.*

The application must be sent to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the Men's Club, who, in turn will forward the application to the scholarship screening committee of the Men's Club. All applications should be received no later than May 4.

St. Haralambos Men's Club Scholarship Regulations

- 1) The Men's Club Scholarship offers two - one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in scholarships for two applicants entering college.*
- 2) Applicant's must be graduate seniors of a Stark or Summit County high school, and members of St. Haralambos Church.*
- 3) The Scholarship will be awarded based on academic standing, community involvement, and extra curricular activities.*
- 4) Application must be sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee who, in turn, will forward it to the scholarship screening committee. The application should be received no later than the May 4.*

**SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATE:
Sunday, May 4, 2025 by Noon**

**ST. HARALAMBOS MEN'S CLUB
XEN GRIVEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION**

PERSONAL DATA:

Name in Full _____
(last) (first) (middle)

Permanent Address _____
(street)

(city) (zip)

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

HIGH SCHOOL DATA

School Attended _____

Grade Point Ave. _____ No. of Semesters _____

Class Rank _____ In a Class of _____

SAT Score: V _____ M _____

ACT COMP _____

Colleges / Universities that you have applied to:

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

Colleges / Universities that have accepted you:

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

<u>Year</u>	<u>Scholarship Description</u>
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_____	_____
-------	-------

_____	_____
-------	-------

_____	_____
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Schedule of Events

JUNE 5, 6 & 7, 2025

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Esber Beverage Wine Tasting	4pm-11pm
Outside Dining	4pm-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Hellenic Dancers Performances	5pm, 6pm & 8pm	DJ Puff	4pm-11pm
		Greek Cooking Demonstrations	7pm
		Outdoor Dance Party with DJ Puff	9pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Esber Beverage Wine Tasting	4pm-11pm
Outside Dining	4pm-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Hellenic Dancers Performances	5pm, 7pm & 8:30pm	DJ Vasilios	4pm-11pm
		Greek Cooking Demonstrations	5:30pm & 7:30pm
		Greek Night with DJ Vasilios	9:15pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Esber Beverage Wine Tasting	11am-9pm
Outside Dining	11am-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Musicians of Olympus	3pm-11p	DJ Billy Manos	11am - 3pm
Greek Cooking Demonstrations	5:30pm & 7:30pm	Hellenic Dancers Performances	3:30pm, 5pm, 7pm & 8:30pm
		Fireworks	After Dark

Schedule Subject to Change



St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church | 251 25th Street, NW | Canton, Ohio 44709 | (330) 454-7278

info@cantongreekfest.com

June 5, 6 & 7, 2025

2025 Event Sponsorship Contract

Parthenon \$15,000

- Overall presenting sponsor
- Your name or company logo featured on banner on the 40 ft x 100 ft outdoor tent
- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print and radio advertising
- Vendor table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Dionysus \$10,000

- Only two sponsors in this category
- Your name or company logo featured on a banner behind the entertainment stage
- Your name or company logo featured on Canton Greek Fest website (www.cantongreekfest.com) and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print and radio advertising
- One six-foot table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Acropolis \$5,000

- Presenting sponsor of any area (indoor dining, outdoor dining, kids play area, dessert dining, wine tasting room, cooking demonstration room)
- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print
- Vendor table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Aegean Sea \$2,500

- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Athens \$1,000

- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Philhellene \$500

- Your name or company logo featured on all event signage
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Your Contact Information

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list the name that you would like listed for the sponsorship: _____

*****Email hi-resolution logo to info@cantongreekfest.com*****

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church or call 330-454-7278 to charge by phone

Mail Payment and Completed Form to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
c/o 2025 Canton Greek Fest
251 25th Street, NW
Canton, Ohio 44709

~donation receipt upon request~



2025 Placemat Sponsorship Form Business & Individual

Purchaser First and Last Name: _____

Purchaser Address: _____

Purchaser Phone Number: _____ Purchaser Email: _____

Please use the following information for my ad: Please type or print. – See reverse for examples – to submit logo, email logo to info@CantonGreekFest.com

Actual Full Placemat size is 14" W x 11" H -- Please select your square size:

Square Information	Width	Height	Price per Square		Qty		Total
A. Full Placemat	13 1/2"	10 1/2"	\$ 1,000	X		=	\$
B. Half Placemat	6"	5"	\$ 500	X		=	\$
C. 6 squares, center	6"	6"	\$ 300	X		=	\$
D. 5 squares, column	2-1/2"	9-3/4"	\$ 250	X		=	\$
E. 4 squares, center	6"	4"	\$ 200	X		=	\$
F. 3 squares, column	2-1/2"	6"	\$ 150	X		=	\$
G. 2 squared, column	2-1/2"	4"	\$ 100	X		=	\$
H. 2 squares side-by-side	6"	2"	\$ 100	X		=	\$
I. 1 square	2-1/2"	2"	\$ 50	X		=	\$
J. 1/2 square	2-1/2"	1"	\$ 25	X		=	\$
GRAND TOTAL							\$

PLACEMAT FORMS DUE: MAY 24, 2025

Please make checks payable to: **St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
c/o 2024 Canton Greek Fest Placemat Ad
251 25th Street, NW
Canton, Ohio 44709**

Credit Cards Accepted:   

Call our church office at (330) 454-7278 to pay by credit card.

Questions about Placemat Ads? Contact Stephanie Fakelis (330) 327-0250 or sfakelis@gmail.com



SILENT AUCTION 2025

We are again asking for donations and or items for this year's baskets for the 2025 Canton Greek Fest.

If you or someone you know has any services or items to donate to make a basket, please let us know! Items must be in new condition please.

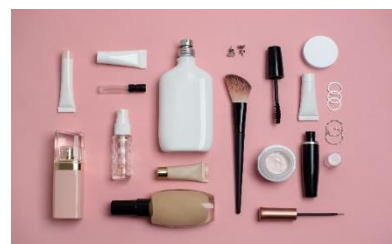
Get together with friends and families to go in on your basket donation!

Deadline to donate auction items is May 28, 2025

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| • Lottery Ticket Tree | • Specialty Coffee & Tea Items | • Gardening Basket |
| • Golf Packages and Items | • Movie Theatre Basket | • Exercise Items |
| • Salon & Spa Packages and Items | • Barbecue & Grill Items | • Sports Themes Items & Apparel |
| • Jewelry Items | • Children's Board Games | • Scarves, Pins, & other accessories |
| • Makeup Items | • Movie DVD's Basket | • Specialty Pasta & Sauce Items |
| • Kitchen Items | • Specialty Food Items | • Pet Items |
| • Gluten-Free Basket | • Children's Books | • Outdoor Lawn Games |
| • Specialty Coffee and Tea Items | • Wine & Bar Items | • Photo Frames |
| • Lotions, Soaps, Perfumes, Colognes | • Beer & Bar Items | • Camping Items |
| • Coloring pencils, crayons, books, etc. | • Olive Oil & Vinegars | • Picnic Items |
| • Computer Accessories | • Chocolate Basket | • Specialty Candles |
| • Nuts & Snacks Basket | • Popcorn Basket | • Gift Cards too! |
| | • Baby Basket | • <i>Any idea, it is limitless</i> |
| | • Baking Items Basket | |
| | • Phone Accessories | |

Questions? Please contact Auction Basket Chairperson:
Marcia Bournelis | mbourn60@gmail.com | 330-309-3428

In person bidding is available at the Canton Greek Fest Thursday, June 5, Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7 11am to 9pm in the Krassas Center Lobby



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

TINA WEY, PRESIDENT

March/April 2025 EDITION

OPERATION CLASSROOM

This is a Philoptochos National Initiative to help support classrooms and students in local schools that have a need. We continue to support "Raise the Barr" with Sunday School where we help feed kids one weekend a month at Barr Elementary. We thank JOY for helping us with a project where we provided teachers who purchase items out of their pockets for their classrooms the items they needed. The kids put "Wish List" bags together for them and they are always so grateful that we take the time and resources to help them. THANK YOU for your support.



COFFEE HOUR



It's never too late to volunteer for coffee hour. Check the lobby poster for available dates and get your family and friends together to host a week. Any questions, contact Stephanie Boka at 330-495-8798.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, March 3rd
General Meeting begins at 6:45. We are pleased to announce "Lori Noebe presents Erma Bombeck" in full costume. Don't miss this entertaining speaker.

Wednesday, March 12th
Presanctified reception after services in Krassas Center

Monday, May 5th
Mother's Day Dinner
Details to come

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.

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



PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS VISITS

Mary Griveas, Paula Spicer
and Mary Trifelos visited our
parishioners over the
holiday season.



Stevie Abraham at The Canton Regency



Stavros Basiakos at The Inn at
Whitewood Village



Irene Gianakis at The Canton Regency



Jack Usner at The Windsor





A night of fun, fellowship
dancing & fundraising at the

Wine, Dine, & Dance Glendi!

October 18, 2025

Presented by Philoptochos and Parish Council.
Proceeds will benefit St. Haralambos Church
and Philoptochos outreach.

Please save the date, and watch
for more information in the near future.

2025 OFFICERS

President, Kathy Dieringer
Vice President, Helen Apostalides
Secretary, Mary Trifelos
Treasurer, Georgia Trikkas
Asst. Treasurer, Goldie Manos



MARCH/APRIL 2025

Kathy Dieringer, President

Silver Liners Spotlight

Programs & Luncheon Dates

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Stark County Memories
with Ricco

Tuesday, April 22, 2025
The Transistors,
singers Dutch & Janet

Good Luck for the Silver Liners

At the January 5 Vasilopita
Sunday coffee hour, the
slice of vasilopita
designated for our group by
Fr. Nick had the good luck
coin in it.

May all of our members be
blessed with good health
and happiness!

Board Members

Carol Capocci	Georgia Matthews
Mary Griveas	Helenann Meder
Tony Koutras	Betty Tsangeos
Carol Trifelos, advisor	

Kitchen Crew

Helen & Michael Apostalides		
Joe Foster	Jim Dieringer	Takis Tzouloufis
Elaine Christ, Hospitality Chairperson	Anna Paxos	
Lefkothea Bourlas	Olga Tsenekos	Volunteers

MEMBERSHIP FOR AGE 55 +

MEMBERSHIP DUES ONLY \$10/YEAR

JOIN TODAY

**Luncheons are held the
3rd Tuesday of each month,
\$6 per person,
in the Krassas Event Center
at 11:30 a.m.**

SILVER LINERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY





Mini Lenten Retreat

Sponsored by Sunday School

*Saturdays April 12, 2025
in the gym*

Decorating the Kouvouklion

After church services
Light Lunch will be provided
Palm Crosses will also be made
Please join us

Sunday School presents



EASTER EGG HUNT

and a visit from the
Easter Bunny

After the Agape Service on
the front lawn weather
permitting.

Otherwise in the gym

Sunday, April 20, 2025



Thank you to all of our Sunday School students and dedicated teachers for helping make the 2024 Sunday School Community Christmas Card a success!! It is with your beautiful designs that I could make various cards, have them colored by our own students and staff, and mail out to over 70 recipients to help spread Christmas Cheer! Extra cards were given to the House of Loreto residents.

Barb Lambrou





ST. HARALAMBOS HELLENIC DANCERS MARCH/APRIL 2025

MARCH & APRIL PRACTICES:

MARCH 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
APRIL 3rd & 10th

BEGINNERS: 4:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
INTERMEDIATES: 5:00 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.
SENIORS: 5:45 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Meeting: Thursday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.
(Meeting is for ALL dancers and parents)

NO PRACTICE
APRIL 17th & 24th



St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Choir

~ Rehearsal Schedule: 6:00 PM

~Sunday Liturgy: 9:45 a.m.

March:

9 th	Sunday	Orthodox Sunday 9:40 am
26 th	Wednesday	Rehearsal

April:

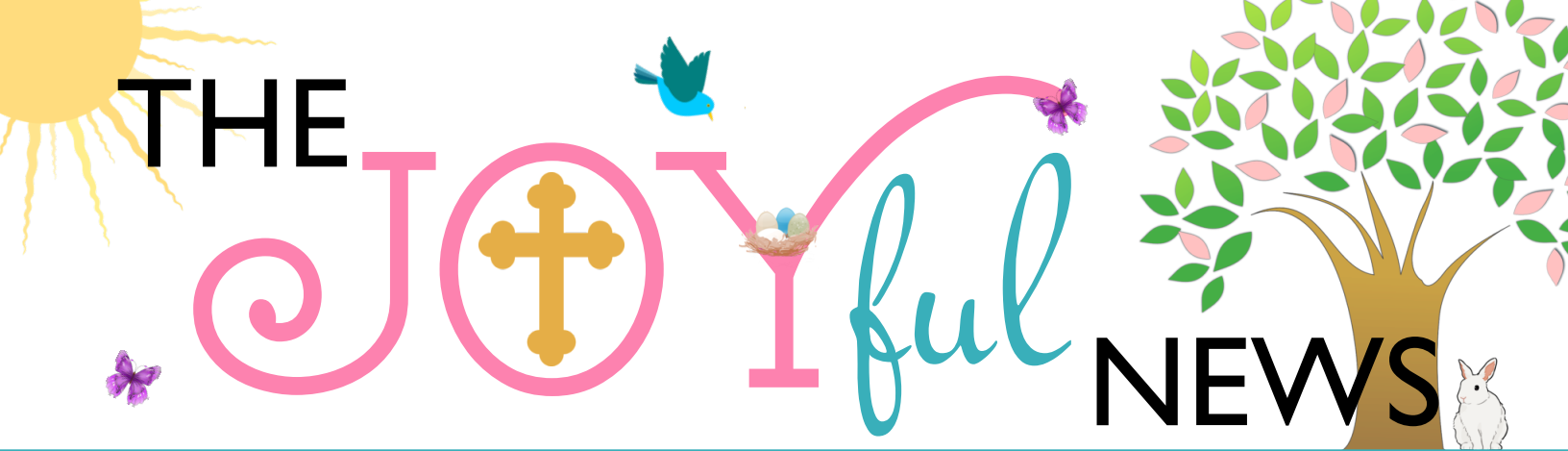
2 nd	Wednesday	Holy Week Rehearsal
9 th	Wednesday	Holy Week Rehearsal
13 th	Sunday	Palm Sunday
15 th	Tuesday	Holy Tuesday (Kassiane)
18 th	Friday	Holy Good Friday
19 th	Saturday/Sunday	Pascha Resurrection

May:

17 th	Sunday	Final Choir Sunday
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June:

8 th	Sunday	Pentecost at Holy Trinity TBA
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JOY was thrilled to help with the Philoptochos Operation Classroom initiative in January. JOY filled 25 classroom reward bags with little toys, bookmarks and pencils for students at Barr Elementary. We also provided dry erase erasers and dry erase pocket sleeves for classroom worksheet projects, which were all on the classroom wish lists! Thank you, Philoptochos, for inviting us to help with this project!

We also want to thank everyone who supported our Refuge of Hope project in February with Jr. GOYA! Your donations are so very needed at the shelter. Special thanks goes to Savvas Bournelis for his wonderful presentation as we head into Great Lent. It was an excellent experience for the kids. Thank you for coming to speak with us!

Our kids also made 100 toiletry kits for the Refuge of Hope at the Sock Hope event. All of the kids showed their loving hearts putting these kits together. *Please look for our Sock Hop photos in the May/June Koinonia, as well as on the hallway television in March.*

MARCH 9: JOY is hosting a Lenten Coffee Hour for the entire Parish. We hope you'll attend! Thank you to all of our families for helping and/or donating for this day.

MARCH 30: Our kids will be making Easter baskets again for our missed parishioners. These gifts will be delivered by our Philoptochos ladies in time for Easter. **THANK YOU,** Philoptochos, for allowing JOY to participate in this lovely outreach with you.

SAVE THE DATES

March 9

JOY is Sponsoring Coffee Hour

If your child can help at the buffet table or with clearing dirty plates, please let me know ASAP

March 30

JOY Easter Baskets

We'll be making baskets for our missed parishioners for the Philoptochos Easter visits. Please meet in the Youth Room after church.

May 4

JOY Spring Cleaning

We'll be cleaning tables & chairs in all of the Sunday School classrooms. Please meet in the Youth Room after church

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





Operation Classroom

JOY helped Philoptochos with the Operation Classroom project! Our kids made 25 classroom reward bags full of fun things for kids to earn in the classroom! We also packaged dry-erase erasers and dry-erase pockets that Barr Elementary teachers requested.



Special Thanks to the following amazing volunteers who helped to make the tournament weekend a success! It truly takes a village!

Nick & Shelly Loukas

Mike & Despina Morgan

Helen Apostalides

Athan Kapalko

Mary Trifelos

Dina Fakelis

Stephanie Fakelis

Dennis & Aristeia Tzouloufis

Georgia Paxos

Chris & Amy Tsenekos

Father Nick Gamvas

Sara & Justin Brown

Leslie Paxos

Cynthia Loukas

Pete Papadopoulos

George Nikolaou

Frank Hill

Dave Hallaman

Tina Bolon

Eleni Volas

Alexandra Bahr

Lula Contos

Georgia Trikkas

Maria Noussias

Georgia Zenallis

William Sklavenitis

Roula & Evan Volas

Matt & Jaime Rocco

Pete & Phaidra Sotiropoulos

Mike & Melinda McNutt

Pete Apostalides

Linda Natale

Gus & Maria Fakelis

Carol Capocci

Kay & Jason Colon

Allison & Mike Sarris

Sherri & Chris Ellis

Stephanie Boka

Adam Varlamos

Nikki Rosetti

John Koutras

John Kellamis

Jimmy Aslanides

Nick Ballas

Mike Fakelis

Kathy Dieringer

Melanie Bowman

Anna Paxos

Mary Griveas

Tula Pirvolos

Pam Aslanides

Louie Tsenekos & Nikko

Joanna & Petr Volas

Valerie & Chris Stavrianou

Minas Paxos

Alex Sakellariou

Katie Prendes

Dino Costi

John Regopolous

Nick Tsenekos

Arianna Tsenekos

Vanessa Cabrera

Leah Michalos

George Contos

Karen Pavlis

Diana Shimko

Stefanie Nastoff

Marcia Bournelis

John Pope

Pam Gaitanos

Chris Vallos

Gia Sotiropoulos

Callie Kristian

Voula Sotiropoulos

Samantha Reiheld

Our awesome GOYAn's





2025 GOYA Tournament

Platinum Sponsor

Loukas Engineering

Gold Sponsor

Akron Dispersions

A Quality Facility Services

Nick & Virginia Ballas, Will & Mari Ballas, Niko & Vasili

The Fakelis Family

Froggy's Car Wash/Waikem

Rev. Nicholas V. Gamvas

St. Haralambos Bookstore

St. Haralambos Philoptochos

George & Georgia Trikkas

Dennis Tzouloufis State Farm Insurance Agency

C. H. Vallos & Associates

Silver Sponsor

Bryant Heating & Cooling

MJ Tasty Eats

Pursuit Lending Group

Dr. Peter & Carolyn Michalos

Anonymous

John & Christine Kellamis

James Kellamis

Steve & Fran Armatas

Additional Support

Mike & Helen Apostalides

Pro Football Hall of Fame

Paula & Mike Spicer

Karen Kotanides

Holy Trinity Canton GOYA

JUNIOR GOYA

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church



In December, the Junior GOYANS met for an evening of pizza, fun, service, and education. They spent the first part of their evening preparing blankets that were later donated to the Children's Network of Stark County. They participated in a discussion on the Jesus Prayer led by Savvas Bournelis and completed a project to reinforce his lesson. They watched an inspirational movie and enjoyed a spirited game of Dodge Ball.



ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY 2025
2025 PHILOPTOCHOS WOMEN OF DISTINCTION - AXIA!

BONNIE EUSTATHIOS ~ CYNTHIA LOUKAS
STEPHANIE MACHAMER ~ JOANNE NICHOLAS ~ RITA TRIKKAS



ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY 2025

2025 FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARD

SARA BROWN ~ GEORGE BOURLAS

DAVID HALLAMAN ~ ROULA VOLAS



ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY 2025
2024 MAN OF THE YEAR
ANTHONY KOUTRAS



ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY 2025



ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY 2025





His Eminence Metropolitan Savas cordially invites you to celebrate the dedicated volunteers of our Holy and God-protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh

ST. PHOTIOS AWARDS BANQUET

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PITTSBURGH-CRANBERRY, MARS PA



SAT MAY 3 2025



4:00 PM

**SCAN ME TO
MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS**



**SCAN ME FOR
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

2025 St. Photios Awards Banquet Sponsorship



Tickets:

Awardees: complimentary

Adults: \$95.00

Children (under 12): \$25.00

Reservation Deadline: April 15

No Refunds after April 15

For information on Reservations, Sponsorships and
Awardee Nominations please visit:
pittsburgh.goarch.org/st-photios-awards-banquet

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE METROPOLITAN'S BENEVOLENCE FUND



Louise Henry at lhenry@pittsburgh.goarch.org



412 621 5529 x10



pittsburgh.goarch.org



Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Awards 2025

His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh will host the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Saint Photios Awards Banquet on May 3, 2025, at The Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry.

Each parish may nominate two individuals to His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh for the Award through the Priest. The St. Photios Award is usually given to an individual who has never received the Archdiocese St. Paul Medal.

I have appointed a selection committee to help with this process, they are: Helen Apostalides, Virginia Ballas, John Kellamis, Taso Lambos, and Paula Papadopulos. When all nominations are in, the Parish Council President and myself will meet with this committee and tally the votes for the two Nominees for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Award.

Please submit your choice for the Saint Photios Award to me, along with the reasons you are nominating this person for this award by Sunday, March 16, 2025. Thank you.

God Bless.

+Fr. Nick

ST. PHOTIOS AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

2014 Ron D. Darrah & Katie Darrah

2015 John Loukas & Eleni Paxos

2016 Mary Griveas & Nick Kouris

2017 Petros Gaitanos & Mary Trifelos

2018 Paula Macris & Goldie Manos

2019 John & Christine Kellamis

2022 Chris Kellamis & Linda Andrews-Natale

2023 Dr. Alex Christ & Ron A. Darrah

2024 Carol Lynne Capocci & Joanna Volas

Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Award 2025

SAINT HARALAMBOS CHURCH NOMINATION FORM

Your Name: _____ Ph: _____

I would like to nominate _____
for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh St. Photios Award 2025 for the following reasons:

Your Signature

Thank you, please submit this form by March 16, 2025
in a sealed envelope to: St. Haralambos Church

Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas
251 25th St. N.W., Canton, OH 44709



Habitat for Humanity® and

East Central Ohio

Stark County Area Pan-Orthodox Community Churches



Judge Klide served the Stark County Area for 26 years and began his public career in 1970 as President of Canton City Council, where he served for two years. He was elected City Law Director and held that office for thirteen years. He was Municipal Court Judge and Stark County Common Pleas Court Judge from February 1985 until he retired on December 31, 1996.

Churchwide Habitat for Humanity Build 2025

Honoring the Honorable Judge Harry E. Klide's Memorial Fund

- This fund continues through Habitat for Humanity and will help with the money needed for the build
- Integrated Heat Treating Solutions in Akron, OH has given \$25,000.00 toward this build to begin August 2025
- The Area Pan-Orthodox Churches would raise the remainder of the monies needed for building this home in the Canton Area.
- Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based ecumenical ministry that believes all people should have a safe, decent place to live.
- For over 35 years, 636 houses have been built in East Central Ohio alone

Here's how it works:

1. Each church agrees to raise X number of dollars
2. Each church will work along side the owner
3. The owner must attend training and education on home ownership
4. The home is not free - but the mortgage is interest -free
5. Opportunities exist to help in the build in the following ways
 - A. On site at the build location
 - B. Prepare and deliver lunches and snacks for volunteers
 - C. Work in Habitat's shop making a shed (good for teenagers!)
 - D. Purchase books for the small bookshelf that each home receives - based on the owner's and child's interests

Let's Build a Home together this summer!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



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1
Susan Fogel
Lukas Worthington

3
Dimitri Bahas
Roula Volas

4
Nick Agelopoulou

5
Louis Calandros
Christian Kellamis
Deborah Trikilas

6
Eleni Volas

7
Giovanni Foradis

8
Demetrios Cotopolis

9
Jeffrey Pope
Angela Vagotis

10
Flora Anderson
Nicholas Carona
Kathy Hardesty
Sophia Kazes
George Trikkas

11
Athan Maurice

12
Peter Kreareas

13
Tasso Lambos
Kate Prendes
Todd Worthington

14
Marcia Bournelis
Margaret Dolph
Lydia Sakel

15
Nicholas Loukas
Lina Niro
Patricia Orlando
Tula Pirovolos
Eva Stavrianou Winn

16
George Yelichek

17
Diane Foster

18
Jenna Machamer
Olga Mammone

19
Stephanie Boka
Rena Kalogeras
Alexandros Spyrou
Stefanos Spyrou

20
Jennifer Kosmides

21
Angela Karavas
Kostas Paxos
Michael Politis

22
Kay Colón
Anne Papacostas

23
Michael Arrigo

24
Vincent Arrigo
Guy Bolon
Peter Glasser
Brooke Kosmides
George Nikolaou

26
Georgia Trikkas
Maria Walch

28
Judy Bargides

29
Sharon Regas

30
Nick Pirovolos

31
Kit Cotopolis
Alexander DiDonato
Olivia Rocco

1
Nicholas Ramphos

2
Susan Foradas

4
Jen Geniatakis
Lucas Rispinto

5
Kathy Dieringer
Christine Kellamis
Eugene Volas

6
Katelyn Michalos
Anthony Wey

7
Elena Yelichek

8
Mihail Paxos
Kathy Viola

9
Dena Apostolou
Nicholas Ballas
Michael Foradas

10
William M. Manos
Tonya Stavrianou

11
John Kosmides
Krissa Olson
Reccardo Semedo

12
Sam Demos
Mia Foradis
John Koutras

15
Lisa Hallaman

16
Carol Trifelos

17
George Brown
Frantzesca Spyrou
Thomas VanDusen
Foti Vonortas

18
Valerie Stavrianou-Winn

19
Natalia Kellamis
Christopher Olson

20
Charlene Langos
Kenna Loukas

21
Gary Fogel
Georgia Matthews

22
Emily Anderson
Paul Koskovich
Gretchen Rutter

23
Nicholas Kakoules
John Pope
Christopher Vallos

24
Marcello Frustaci
George Kalantzis

25
Stephanie Arrigo
Gregory Kalikas
George Yelichek

26
David Karpinski
Stephanie Orphan

27
Erin Dolph

28
Rita Trikkas

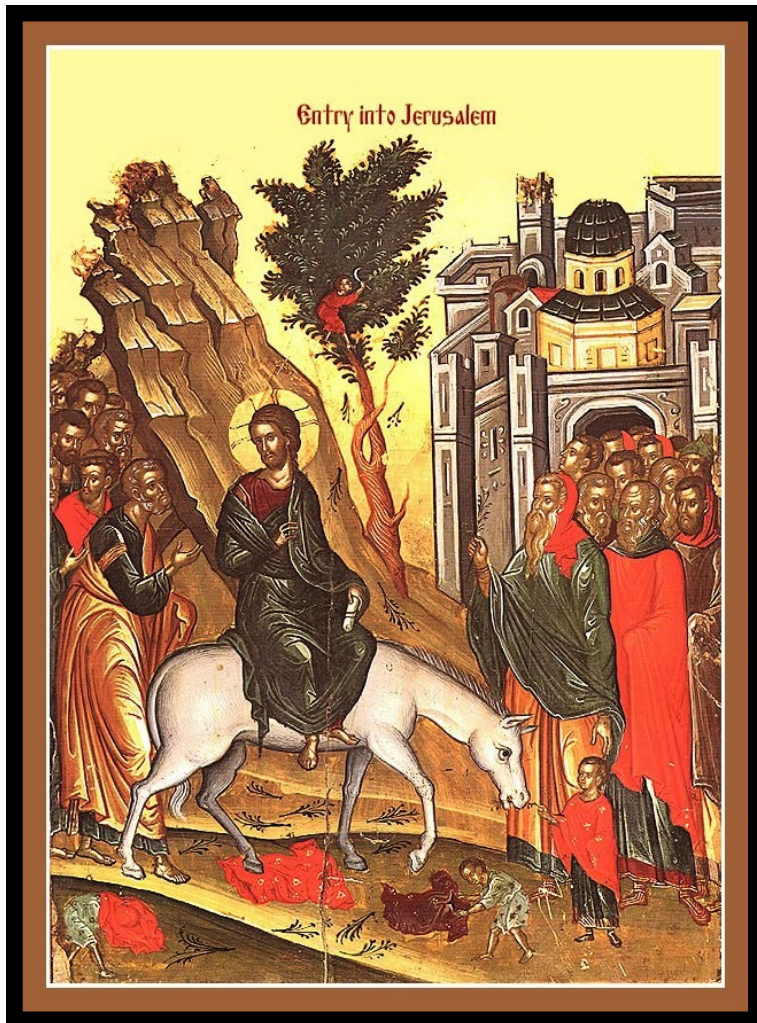
29
Fran Armatas
Alysse Giallourakis

30
Alexandra Rossetti

St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox Church
251 - 25th Street N.W.
Canton, OH 44709

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Welcome!



PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025

TROPARIA OF THE FEAST

O Christ God,
when we were buried with
Thee in baptism,
we became deserving of
Thy Resurrection
to immortal life.

Wherefore,
we praise Thee, crying,
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He
that cometh in the
Name of the Lord!