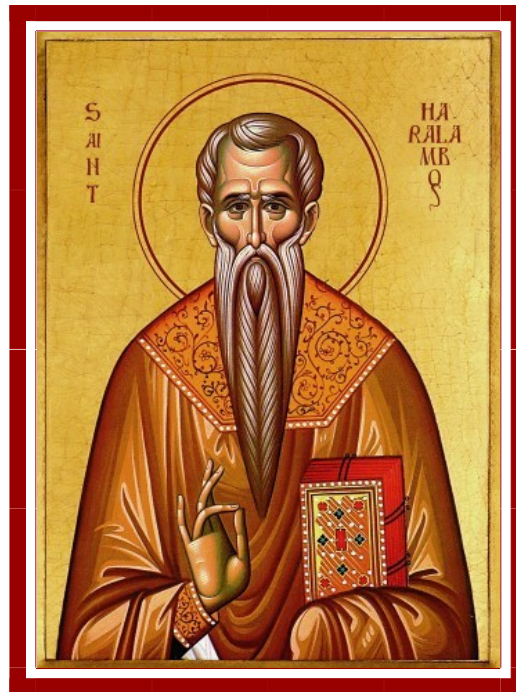




ST. HARALAMBOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CANTON, OHIO

*St. Haralambos
The Wonder Worker*



February 10

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

AKOINONIA



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

REV. PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS V. GAMVAS, D.MIN., PH.D., IERATIKOS PROISTAMENOS

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JANUARY

JANUARY 1	THURSDAY	ST. BASIL THE GREAT 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 4	SUNDAY	SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 5	MONDAY	EVE OF THE THEOPHANY Royal Hours, Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy. Blessing of the Waters will take place.
JANUARY 6	TUESDAY	HOLY THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy. Blessing of the Waters will take place.
JANUARY 7	WEDNESDAY	SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 11	SUNDAY	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 17	SATURDAY	ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
JANUARY 18	SUNDAY	12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE ST. ATHANASIUS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 25	SUNDAY	15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
JANUARY 30	FRIDAY	SYNAXIS OF THE THREE HIERARCHS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE - TRIODION BEGINS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 2	MONDAY	PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 8	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 9	MONDAY	SAINT HARALAMBOS GREAT VESPERS 6:30 p.m. - Great Vespers.
FEBRUARY 10	TUESDAY	FEASTDAY OF SAINT HARALAMBOS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy. Philoptochos will host a luncheon after services, everyone is welcome.
FEBRUARY 14	SATURDAY	1ST SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 15	SUNDAY	ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY CELEBRATION JUDGEMENT SUNDAY - MEATFARE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 21	SATURDAY	SECOND SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 22	SUNDAY	FORGIVENESS SUNDAY, CHEESEFARE 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
FEBRUARY 23	MONDAY	CLEAN MONDAY 6:00 p.m. - Compline Service
FEBRUARY 25	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY at <u>ST. GEORGE GREEK CHURCH, MASSILLON</u> 6:30 p.m. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited.
FEBRUARY 27	FRIDAY	FIRST SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS 6:30 p.m.
FEBRUARY 28	SATURDAY	THIRD SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00 am - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy

JANUARY 2026

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:00 a.m. †St. Basil The Great	2	3 Epiphany Greek Night Celebration
4 9:00 a.m. †Sunday Before Theophany Vasilopeta Sunday Sunday School Vasilopeta Boys BB Practice	5 9:00 a.m. †Eve of Theophany Royal Hours Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	6 9:00 a.m. †Holy Theophany 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School 7:00 p.m. Computer Mtg.	7 9:00 a.m. †Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	8 Catering Event	9	10 Catering Event
11 9:00 a.m. †Sunday After Theophany JOY Meeting JR GOYA Meeting Boys BB Practice	12	13 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	14 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	15	16 Catering Event GOYA Basketball Tournament	17 9:00 a.m. †St. Anthony the Great GOYA Basketball Tournament
18 9:00 a.m. †12th Sunday of Luke †ST. ATHANASIUS Boys BB Practice	19	20 3:30 p.m. Fr. Nick's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	21 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	22 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parent/Dancer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Alumni Dance Practice	23	24
25 9:00 a.m. †15th Sunday of Luke GOYA Meeting Boys BB Practice	26	27 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	28 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	29 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	30 9:00 a.m. †Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs 4:00 p.m. Fish Fry GOYA Basketball Tournament	31 GOYA Basketball Tournament



FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 a.m. †Sunday of the Publican & The Pharisee JOY sponsoring Coffee Hour Boys BB Practice	2 9:00 a.m. †Presentation of Our Lord 5:30 p.m. Philoptochos Board Meeting	3 10:00 a.m. Silver Liners' Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	4 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	5 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. †Sunday of the Prodigal Son GOYA Meeting Jr. GOYA Meeting Boys BB Practice	9 6:30 p.m. †Great Vespers St. Haralambos	10 9:00 a.m. †Feastday of St. Haralambos Philoptochos Name Day Luncheon 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	11 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	12 Catering Event 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	13 GOYA BB Tournament	14 9:00 a.m. †First Saturday of Souls GOYA BB Tournament
15 9:00 a.m. †Judgement & Meatfare Sunday St. Haralambos Banquet Boys BB Practice	16 Catering Event	17 3:30 p.m. Fr. Nick's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	18 6:30 p.m. Boys BB Practice	19 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	20 4:00 p.m. Fish Fry	21 9:00 a.m. †Second Saturday of Souls
22 9:00 a.m. †Forgiveness Sunday- Cheese-fare	23 6:00 p.m. †Great Compline Clean Monday	24 4:30 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	25 6:30 p.m. †Presanctified Liturgy @ St. George, Massillon 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	26 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parent/Dancer Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Alumni Dance Practice	27 6:30 p.m. †First Salutations to The Theotokos	28 9:00 a.m. †Third Saturday of Souls



Father Nick's New Year's Letter 2026



†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 2025 has been! All of us had our ups and downs. And there are several lessons we can learn from 2025. 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 :

Chris Gaitanos , President of the Parish Council for his dedicated leadership. And to all of the Church's Ministry Groups: Rev. Dr. Deacon Keric J. Shiepis, Subdeacon Billy Poulos, Sexton Dean Darrah, the Altar servers, the Parish Council, Tina Wey, President and Philoptochos, Carol Capocci and the Silver Liners, Jimmy Kellamis and the Men's Club, Stephanie Machamer, Director and the Sunday School, Eleni Paxos, Greek School Director and staff, Phaidra Sotiropoulos and Sara Brown and GOYA, Marcia Bournelis and Linda Natale, Jr. GOYA, Stephanie Sakel JOY, Natalia Kellamis, YAL, Eleni Paxos and St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers, Petros Gaitanos, Protopsalti and the Chanters: John Kellamis, Christine Kellamis, Natalia Kellamis, Karen & Mike Lazoran, Choir Director 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 people 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 2026. 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.

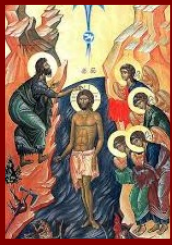
Όμως ο καινούργιος χρόνος που ανοίγεται μπροστά μας δεν είναι απλώς μια ανοιχτή δυνατότητα. Είναι και ένα κομμάτι ιστορία. Καί την ιστορία δεν την γράφει ποτέ ο άνθρωπος μόνος του. Συμπράττει αοράτως κι ο Θεός. Άλλοτε εμπνέοντας και πρωτοστατώντας στού ανθρώπου τα όνειρα και τις επιδιώξεις για άμεση 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.

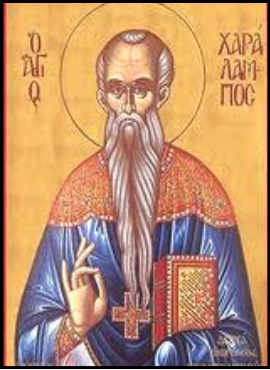
Simeon and Anna show us what can happen when the virtue of watchfulness is practiced consistently and patiently. Sooner or later when God wills (for it is always a gift, never automatic) and we are able at last to see, the revelation that Christ and his kingdom are present here and now will dawn in our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

QUESTIONS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Question: Why do we pray to saints?

Answer: 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.

Question: Why are there icons everywhere?

Answer: 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.

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

Answer: 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.

Question: Why do we pray to the Virgin Mary?

Answer: 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.

Question: Why do we cross yourselves?

Answer: 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.



ASK FATHER NICK...

Question: Why do we use incense?

Answer: 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).

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

Answer: 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.

Question: Do we believe the Eucharist is REALLY the body and blood of Christ?

Answer: Yes. The Eucharist is truly the body and blood of our Lord. But this can be apprehended only by spiritual sight, what the early Christians called the nous—the eyes of the soul. Without this spiritual insight, we could not understand the mystery of the Eucharist.

Question: Are non-Orthodox Christians welcome to attend an Orthodox Church service?

Answer: Absolutely! We are overjoyed when someone joins us for worship and experiences the beauty of the Orthodox Tradition. Because the services are somewhat different than Protestant or Roman Catholic service, it is probably a good idea to contact the priest of the parish you wish to visit and tell him you intend to join them for worship. He will see that someone from the parish greets you and helps you find your way through the Service Book.

Question: Can a non-Orthodox Christian receive Communion in the Orthodox Church?

Answer: Unfortunately, No. The Holy Orthodox Church, in keeping with the ancient Tradition of Christianity, believes that Holy Communion is a family meal, shared between those who are under the supervision of the same Bishop, or another Bishop with whom he is in Communion. Simply put, this means that Orthodox Christians practice inter-Communion with other Orthodox Christians (as all Orthodox Bishops are in Communion with one another), but not with Protestants or Roman Catholics whose church leaders are not in Communion with Orthodox Bishops.



Welcoming in 2026 The New Year

By the grace of God, we have arrived at the start of another New Year 2026! Where has the time gone? I would like to take this opportunity to relay a story that I read which happened many decades ago. Notre Dame had a basketball player who was rather small, under six feet tall. But he was a “deadly shot.” His name was Charlie. One particular game, which happened to be nationally televised, Charlie was having a bad game and was way off the mark of his normal accuracy. As the saying goes, he could not hit the broad side of a barn. During that game he was fouled continuously, but out of eleven fouls he only made one foul shot.

The next game was against Indiana, a traditional foe. Priests and students came down for the game, again to be televised. Three of the priests got a hold of Charlie before the buzzer sounded signaling the start of the game and said: “Charlie, you have either got to stop making the sign of the cross before your foul-shots, or you have to start making them. You are giving the church a bad name!”

We may chuckle at the story, but it does reflect an important attitude. We are called Christians, followers of Christ, members of His body, His Church. As others observe the way we live-the way we work, speak, play, endure suffering and tribulations, study, spend our time and money and watch us as we interact with others along with everything else, we do-they judge our God and our Church. It may not be right for them to do this, but they do. Are our actions, behaviors, mannerisms, etc. giving Christ and our Holy Orthodox Church a bad name?

This is something for us to think about as we stand at the entrance of another new year. Some people might not think much about the practice of “blessing oneself” at the foul-line of a basketball court. Maybe it settles the player’s nerves, but I do not think that it is designed to influence the Lord to shift the laws of gravity and accuracy. I believe it is designed to focus our attention on the Lord and His life-giving sacrifice for our salvation and to call upon Him to help us focus and give thanks for the gifts that He has bestowed upon us to be used for His glory. At the same time, it must be said that Christians from the very beginning have made the sign of the cross at important times as a testament to their faith in and trust of the Lord. It is something like a custom of Orthodox Christians to light a blessed candle in front of an icon of Jesus & or the Virgin Mary with Jesus during violent storms or turbulent weather praying for deliverance and safe keeping. It is a sign of our faith and trust in God.

Let us be aware then, as we begin to walk down the road of a New Year marked 2026, that we are God’s “anointed ones,” children of the Light, members of the Lord’s family. All this being true, let us walk worthily according to our calling. There are people watching. But watching or not, this is still the proper way to live, letting the light of Jesus shine through our lives, using whatever gifts have been bestowed upon us for betterment of mankind and to the glory of God.



DEACON KERIC'S CORNER

REV. DEACON KERIC SHIEPIS, D.C.

The Christian roadway is just as clearly marked as any route in the country. It is just narrower and needs attentiveness to be traversed correctly to the best of our ability. We must never forget that the Lord knows the intent and motives of our hearts. God's Word says, "This is the way, walk in it." It is not by chance that the first believers in Jesus were called followers of "**the Way**," Christ Himself said: "I am the Way, whosoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life..."

Let us be grateful that the roadway for 2026 is lit and marked. With Jesus Christ as our compass, we will safely steer through the year. With everything that lies ahead all the good as well as the not so good we must be confident in the fact that Jesus will **ALWAYS GUIDE, GUARD AND PROTECT US**. If we are doing our best to follow His precepts, He promised us to "never leave or forsake us." we can be confident that no matter what hidden "unseen perils" in the upcoming New Year lie ahead, Jesus is by our side. Trusting in His Word which we should be searching diligently for life's answers.

It is very much to our benefit that we be constantly praying to God in order that our hearts may be inflamed with a sincere desire of seeking, serving, and loving Him. If we do not diligently pray to Him, we will not be endowed with the Spirit of Christ to dwell in us. We must never forget that the purpose of life is not to be successful, not to be popular, not to have excessive amounts of money, but to glorify God using the "talents" that He has given us. This is done by seeking, loving, and serving Jesus Christ. When we grow accustomed to His presence in our lives, we have Him as a sacred "anchor" in every necessity. We will be confident in His promise no matter what "...that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Myself, along with Diakonisa Melissa, Kerissa, Costandinos & Xenia wish everyone a blessed, happy, safe & prosperous New Year and that the Lord grant you everything that avails to your salvation.



2026 PARISH ADMINISTRATORS

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

EMAIL: Haralambos251@stharalambos.com

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

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:

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

OFFICE STAFF

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:	CAROL CAPOCCI
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:	LINDA NATALE
MAIDS OF ATHENA:	GIA SOTIROPOULOS





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: January 4
February 1

TEAM B: January 11
February 8

TEAM C: January 18
February 15

TEAM D: January 25
February 22

TEAM A

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

MISSED PARISHIONERS

THE CANTON REGENCY
4515 22nd Street NW,
Canton, Ohio 44708
PAULA MACRIS

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
BETTY TSANGEOS

Pan-Orthodox Outdoor Blessing of the Waters
Tuesday, January 6 (Epiphany) ~ Noon
Stadium Park, Shelter #5



BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER NICK

Tuesday, January 20th @ 3:30 to 4:30 pm
Tuesday, February 17th @ 3:30 to 4:30 pm

ORTHODOX BOOK STUDY GROUP

**Join us for a spiritual book study and
fellowship starting in January 2026!**

Every Tuesday ~ in the Tri-Room
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**If you would like to participate, please
contact the church office @ 330-454-7278.**

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.

Thank you.

[illegible]

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.*



Voula Kandis

In memory of Sakes Kandis and loved ones

The Kouris Family

For the health of the family

Jerry & Bess McGonnell

In memory of our parents

Richard & Helen Meder

In loving memory of Harry & Irene Lageris

Ann Paxos

In loving memory of Lambros Paxos and for the health of family

The Skendelas Family

For the health of our family

Mary Stavrakis

In memory of loved ones and for the health of family

Carol Trifelos

In memory of Dan Trifelos



ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In Loving Memory of Our Dear Parishioners

HELEN (VARAVVAS) BOZEKA
January 8, 2025

EVELYN EUSTATHIOS
April 24, 2025

ALEXIA M. BARNETT
October 4, 2025

MARY VAITSIS HADJIAN
January 27, 2025

IRENE GIANAKIS
June 16, 2025

STACEY PAPPAKOSTAS
October 24, 2025

CATHERINE DEMOS
February 9, 2025

MICHAEL NICHOLS
July 16, 2025

ELAINE VALLOS
November 28, 2025

MARY (LYRAS) HINKEL
April 11, 2025

SAM DEMOS
July 28, 2025

PENELOPE RALLES
April 20, 2025

STAVROS BASIAKOS
September 19, 2025





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!*

CHRISMATION

Jenna Marie (Poepelman) Machamer was chrismated Maria on December 14, 2025. Her sponsor was Marcia Bournelis.

Lorraine Marie Manos was chrismated Maria on December 21, 2025. Her sponsor was Goldie Manos.

BAPTISMS

Constantine D. Roff was baptized on November 15, 2025. His Sponsors were Triantafilos & Stephanie Likouris.

WEDDINGS

Christopher Wolf and Nicole Sarmiento were married on November 8, 2025. Their Koumbara was Stephanie Sakel.

DEATHS

Stacey Pappakostas
October 24, 2025

Elaine Vallos
November 28, 2025

UPCOMING MEMORIALS:

18yr Memorial: January 4, 2026
Rosalie Forinash

40-Day Memorial: January 4, 2026
Elaine Vallos

3yr Memorial: February 8, 2026
Gust Contos

A big "THANK YOU"

Goes out to the following individuals who have made donations to St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church:

- ♦ Matheos Tsounias for donating 15 liters of Navarino Greek Kalamata Extra Virgin Olive Oil, in memory of his mother, Zografia Tsounias, to our kitchen crew.
- ♦ Anthony Zorbas with Anthony's Lock & Key for donating his work and time on re-keying the locks to the church office and bookstore doors.



Canton Greek Fish Fry

Save the Dates for the 2025/2026
Canton Greek Fish Fry Events!

January 30, 2026 - Drive Thru Only
February 20, 2026 - Dine In & Drive Thru
March 20, 2026 - Dine In & Drive Thru
Interested in volunteering?
Contact Peter Volas [216-312-4255]



**Are you wanting to make Prosforo
but don't have the Prosforo seal?**

**Contact the church office at
330-454-7278, to make arrangements
to borrow the Prosforo seal.**



2026 Canton Greek Fest
June 4, 5, & 6,

ST. HARALAMBOS NAME DAY BANQUET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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 2025
MAN OF THE YEAR
DAVID HALLAMAN**



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

*The Ladies Philoptochos Society proudly presents the
2026 Women of Distinction*



Athanasia Armatas



Melody Bowman



Pam Gaitanos



Georgia Matthews



Anna Paxos



SILVER LINERS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026

This Year's Officers:

President: Carol Capocci
Vice President: Helen Apostolides
Advisor: Kathy Dieringer
Secretary: Mary Trifelos
Treasurer: Bill Skendelas

Committees:

Communication: Mary Feltz
Hospitality: Anna Paxos
Meals: Helen Apostolides
Set & Strike: Leftothea Bourlas
Trips: Kathy Dieringer
Christmas Card: Mary Griveas
Cindi Koskovich

Don't forget that January 4th is
Vasilopita Sunday!
Last year the Silver Liners
got the coin and
it was a great year.
Join us in the hall as we
celebrate the New Year and
to see who gets the 2026 coin!

The Great Fast begins on
February 23rd this year. May
your Lenten journey be filled
with spiritual renewal as we
prepare for the greatest feast of
the church year:

His glorious Resurrection.

I pray everyone is staying warm and well. This winter has been interesting to say the least! I'd like to thank everyone who made our Dec-Jan-Feb Holiday party so much fun. Looking ahead to the Spring, I would remind everyone there is much more fun and surprise to come.

Our outing to hear VOCAL FUSION was so wonderful. The attending Silver Liners sent a basket of goodies backstage for Christian Kellamis to share with the cast who sang perfectly!

Mark your calendars:

1) Don't forget to get your tickets for the 112th Annual Saint Haralambos Nameday Banquet on February 15th. Celebrate our church and its award worthy members.

2) Our next \$6 luncheon is Tuesday, March 17th at NOON. You will certainly want to wear something green as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Dr. Peter Micholas. (We've moved the complimentary, catered lunch to October 2026.)

Know ye this: Our annual Christmas Card Project was more successful than it has ever been. Thank you for your support!

Stay well. Stay safe. Spring is just around the corner!

Officially,
Carol Capocci

We have 168 members, 22 social members and always have room for more.
If you are 55 years of age you can join us! Dues are \$10 a year but FREE if you are 90+ !!!
The \$6 Lunch begins promptly at NOON, followed by a delightful program, and a quick meeting.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

TINA WEY, PRESIDENT

January/February 2026 EDITION



A new year and new coffee hour sign up! How about a New Year's resolution to host a coffee hour with your friends, family or organization. The fellowship with our church family is awesome. There is a sign up poster in the lobby and you can also contact the church office. If you have any questions, contact Stephanie Boka at 330-495-8798. Thank you to those who volunteered in 2025. Don't wait for someone else to volunteer.

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

Vasilopita Sunday

Sunday, January 4th – Sponsored in memory of Niove Fasoulas, Sheriff George and Betty Papadopoulos and Rosalie Forinash by their families

Name Day Banquet and Women of Distinction

Sunday, February 15th

Congratulations to our recipients

Nancy Armatas

Melody Bowman

Pam Gaitanos

Georgia Matthews

Anna Paxos

Congratulations

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 donated for Vasilopita Sunday
 - To those who helped with coffee hour
 - To those who visited the shut-ins
- WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND GENEROSITY
- This past year our chapter has given \$13,000 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 2025/2026 are now being collected and can be given to Helen Apostalides or Fran Armatas. Enter through the Agape Courtyard.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Vasilopita After Liturgy

Monday, February 2, 2026

Board Meeting only 5:30

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Board Meeting 5:30

General 6:00 - date change/lent

Tuesday March 31, 2026

This is the April meeting

Board Meeting 5:30

General 6:00 - date change/lent

Monday, May 4, 2026

– Mother's Day Dinner



A night of fun, fellowship, dancing
& fundraising at the

Wine, Dine, & Dance Glendi!

October 18, 2025







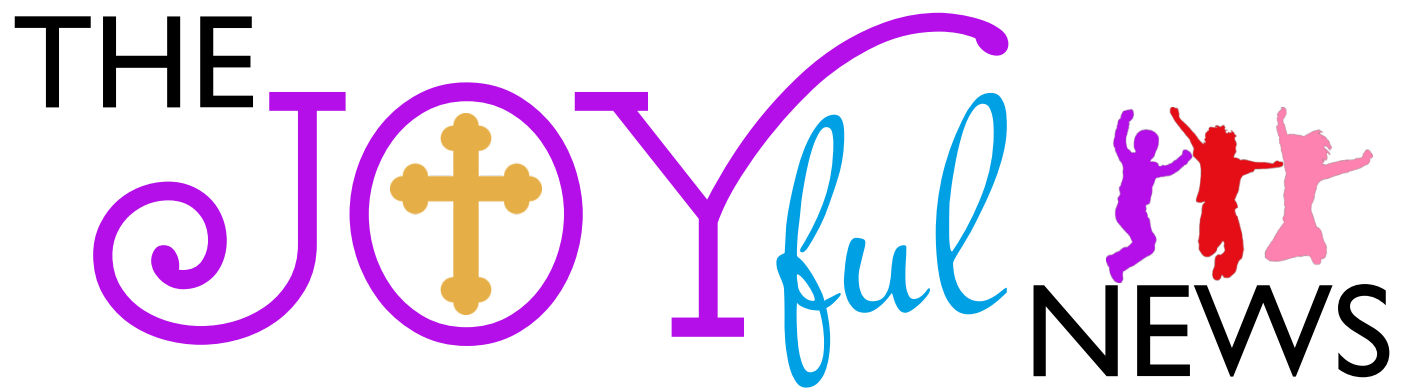








THE JOYful NEWS



Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Our JOY kids rounded-out 2025 with a lot of good stuff:

November: Our JOY kids filled bags with classroom prizes for the Operation Classroom outreach project for Barr Elementary School. We were also able to donate a small Starbucks gift card to each of the teachers for their dedication. Thank you to Philoptochos for allowing JOY to participate, and for donating to this project! Our kids enjoy doing it!

December: We had a blast at our Christmas party with our Gingerbread House charitable challenge! Our 3 teams decorated some AMAZING houses for a charity project! Our kids voted to support the following local groups in 2026: Jackson Bear Hugs, The Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank and The Refuge of Hope.

While each one of these teams did a wonderful job, your votes on Dec. 21, determined the ranking order! The team with the most votes will be able to give the most support to their first choice charity, with each subsequent team earning a level of support for the other charities as well! The gingerbread houses looked amazing and the kids worked very hard! Thank you to everyone who voted!

Last but not least, our JOY kids went to see the new movie, *David*, at the Cinemark Bistro theater. The movie was so nicely done. It was surprisingly action-packed, and very musical. Great for the whole family!

Stay tuned for all that 2026 has in store for JOY!

SAVE THE DATES

January 11:

Orthodox Kids With Questions with Jr. GOYA

Let's learn from Father Nick and Deacon Keric in the youth room after church during our fun Q&A game!

February 1:

Coffee Hour will be sponsored by JOY on this day!

Our kids will also be serving and cleaning.

JOY Families: Please watch your email in February about our volunteer outing in March.

Let All That You
Do Be Done
With Love

1 Corinthians
16:14

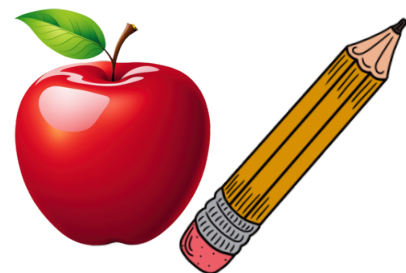
Please contact Stephanie Sakel with any questions 330.949.8085



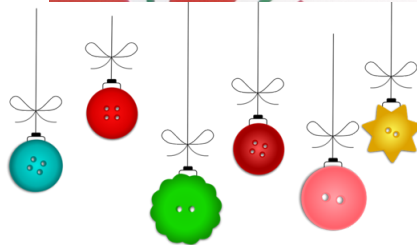
Operation Classroom, & Christmas Cards, too!

JOY helped Philoptochos with its Operation Classroom project again this year! Our kids made classroom reward bags full of fun things for kids to earn in the classroom!

The kids also made beautiful Christmas cards for nursing home residents!



Thank you all
for coming to
the JOY
Christmas
Party!



Special thanks to
Hayden Apostalides
for reading our
Christmas prayer. She
did a wonderful job!



Our JOY kids decorated gingerbread houses in a fun contest to support these local organizations in 2026: **Jackson Bear Hugs, The Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank and The Refuge of Hope.** These creative kiddos did a wonderful job!

Thank you to everyone who voted for our team rankings in December!

TEAM SPARKLE!



TEAM GOD'S HOUSE!



TEAM GRINCH GREEN!





JOY went to see the new movie, *David*, in December. We all enjoyed our movie outing! Thank you to everyone who came!



JOY has been off to a great start as we round out 2025.

We celebrated our kick-off event with our 3rd Annual Pumpkin Patch & Fall Festival. The weather was very nice this year, and we enjoyed the fellowship with our JOY families and parishioners. Check out the photos in the Koinonia, and plan to join us next year! Everyone is welcome!

Our kids have also finished our Operation Classroom project for Barr Elementary School. Philoptochos has graciously allowed us to help with this initiative again. Our kids assembled reward bags full of prizes for the teachers to use as classroom incentives, which is one of the most needed things the teachers use on a regular basis.

Philoptochos has generously donated to this project, which allowed us to also give each of the teachers a small Starbucks gift card to thank them for their dedication. We really appreciate this partnership, and the kids always enjoy doing it.

Today is our JOY Christmas party and movie outing, which is why I'm not present at the meeting. We've definitely had a bit of fun today, but we've also focused on helping some great organizations. Last month, our kids voted for their top 3 charities they want to lend a helping hand to in 2026, which are: Jackson Bear Hugs, The Refuge of Hope, and The Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank . But, in order to help these groups, we need some of your help as well.

We're having a Gingerbread House contest, and we'd appreciate your votes to sort out our team rankings. The rankings will correlate to the level of support each team will give to their chosen charity. Voting will take place Sunday, December 21, so please stop at our table and look at our Gingerbread Houses and vote to help these great organizations in our community. Thank you!

Merry Christmas to all of you from JOY!



St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Choir

~ Rehearsal Schedule: 6:00 PM

~Sunday Liturgy: 9:45 a.m.

January:

28th, Wednesday

Rehearsal

February:

11th, Wednesday

Nameday Rehearsal with Holy Trinity

15th, Sunday

St. Haralambos Nameday Divine Liturgy

23rd, Monday

Orthodox Lent (Clean Monday)

March:

1st, Sunday

Orthodox Sunday

18th, Wednesday

Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.

25th, Wednesday

Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.

April:

1st, Wednesday

Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.

5th, Sunday

Palm Sunday

7th, Tuesday

Holy Tuesday (Kassiane) - 6:00 p.m.

10th, Friday

Holy Good Friday - 6:40 p.m.

11th, Saturday/Sunday

Pascha Resurrection - 11:00 p.m.

May:

17th, Sunday

Final Choir Sunday

24th, 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

2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

STEPHANIE, STEPHANIE, KATHY, ERIN, PAISIA, MALLORY, STEPHANIE, DIANE, TINA, PAULA,
JAIME, JANET, LINDA, TULA, NIKI, BARB, VALERIE, PETER, MIKE, MARIA

We have been blessed by all the help from each of you for donating to our "Raise the Barr" feeding the children program. We feed 70 children a month for the entire school year the first weekend of each month. We couldn't do it without the joint collaboration of Philoptochos and each of you. Kid friendly foods are always welcome to be dropped off in the sunday school office or Marthas cupboard. Any questions, please reach out to the staff.

St. Nicholas gift card project was another huge success. We were able to donate to area Stark County schools and also donated Giant Eagle gift cards at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Again, thanks for your continued generosity for these very worthwhile outreach programs.

We are thankful for our St. Haralambos Family. May the New Year bring much peace, health happiness to each of you.

Thank you to our Sunday School students and dedicated teachers for helping make the 2025 Sunday School Community Christmas Card a success!! It is with their beautiful designs that I could make various cards, have them colored by our students and staff, and mail out to over 70 recipients to help spread Christmas Cheer! Extra cards were given to Bethany, House of Loreto, and St. Luke's Residents. Barb Lambrou





St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers

Happy New Year!

2025 PERFORMANCES

40 Year Dancer Anniversary ~ Greek Night
St. Haralambos-Canton, OH

GREEKFEST-St. Haralambos
Canton, OH

St. Nicholas Greek Festival
Youngstown, OH

Alumni Dancer Wedding
North Lawrence, OH

St. John Greek Festival
Boardman, OH

Philoptochos Wine Glendi
St. Haralambos ~ Canton, OH

Metropolis Folk Dance Festival
Holy Trinity ~ Pittsburgh, PA

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

We were able to provide 45 very FULL baskets to 45 VERY Appreciative families.

Thank you to Father Nick & the St. Haralambos Community for your continued support in 2025. We look forward to the new year!

Eleni Paxos, Director

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January

Jan. 3, 2026~Greek Night Epiphany Dance
(see flyer for details)

Jan 22, 2026~Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm
ALL groups

February

Feb 26, 2026~Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm
ALL groups

Practices:

January 22 & 29

February 5, 12, 19 & 26

Beginners: 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Intermediate: 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm

Training Seniors: 5:45 pm - 6:15 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
present

Epiphany
Greek Night
Celebration

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

7:30PM TO MIDNIGHT

**St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Cultural Center
251 25th Street, NW | Canton, OH 44709**

Featuring

- DJ Vasilios
- Performances by St.
Haralambos Hellenic Dancers
- Mezethes
- Desserts
- Cash Bar

TICKETS

\$20

Per person
over 12 years old

\$15

Per registered St.
Haralambos Hellenic
Dancer or under 12
years old

CONTACT

**GEORGIA PAXOS
330-933-7596 OR
SHELLY LOUKAS
330-322-5646
TO PURCHASE**

***ST. HARALAMBOS
HELENIC DANCERS'
CHRISTMAS PARTY
& FOOD DRIVE***







**Are you a Stark County High School
Senior, female, single and of Greek descent
or an active member of the Maids of Athena
or is your parent(s) an active member, in good standing
of the Daughters of Penelope or the Order of AHEPA?**

***Join us for the
58th Annual Daughters of Penelope
Debutante's Ball
April 18, 2026***

**Please RSVP to Debutantes Ball Chairperson,
Marcia Bournelis at (330) 309-3428 or Protocol
Chairperson, Mary Griveas at (330) 268-9069
if interested.**

58th Annual - Daughters of Penelope Debutante's Ball

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Doors Open - 7:30 pm

Presentation - 8:30 pm

Alex D. Krassas Event Center
251 25th Street NW
Canton, OH 44709

Tickets: \$25 each

Please contact Frances Pantelides at (330) 284-3929
Ticket Chairperson or
debsball@gmail.com
to purchase your tickets.



-+

Order of AHEPA

Canton 59

***100th Anniversary
Celebration***

January 17, 2026

Raintree Golf and Event Center

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Cocktails

Music provided by Nikolai Rogich

Dinner, Program and Dancing to Follow

Music provided by TA FILARKIA

Join us for this wonderful milestone celebration of one of AHEPA's oldest chapters. Bring your memories and stories to share with all.

Tickets are \$75.00 per person.

For tickets contact:

John Karipides 330 283-0113

John Regas 330 409-3668

Paul Koskovich 330 327-4079

Bill Zantopoulos 330 284-9586

Gus Athans 330 412-0708

JANUARY

1 Steve Fronimopoulos 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 William Skendelas Paula Spicer	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 Markos Kantzos 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 Finnigan Orlando Christ Panopoulos	21 Theodora Kouris Elaina Ludwig 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 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 above the figure of Christ.

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.

